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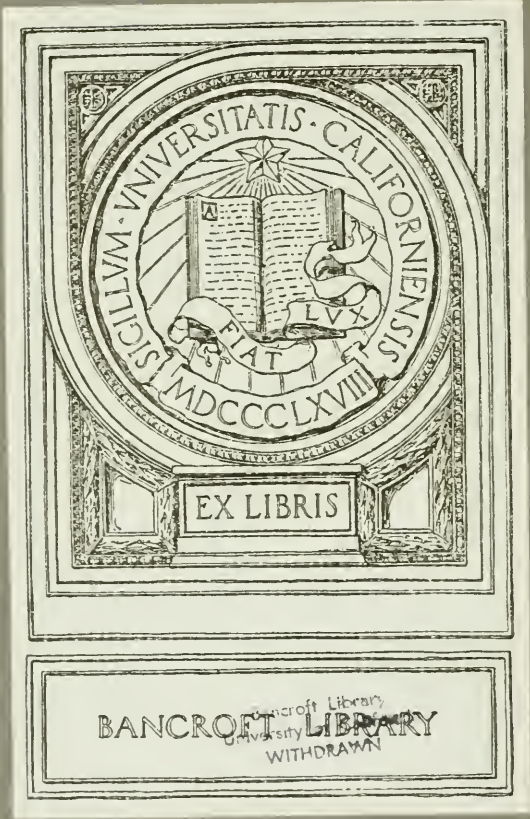


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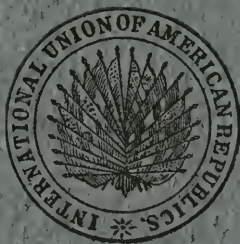
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MUNICIPAL ORGANIZATIONS IN LATIN AMERICA

BUENOS AIRES  
ARGENTINE REPUBLIC

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(Reprint of an article from the Monthly Bulletin of the International  
Bureau of American Republics, November, 1908)



WASHINGTON, D. C.  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

1909





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# MUNICIPAL ORGANIZATION IN THE CAPITALS OF LATIN-AMERICA . . .

## BUENOS AIRES.

**T**HE city of Buenos Aires, capital of the Argentine Republic, on June 30, 1908, had 1,146,865 inhabitants. The rate of increase has been close to 5 per cent from year to year, and promises to rise above this owing to circumstances that are naturally and artificially advantageous. This growth of the city is high as compared to other important cities of both Europe and America, surpassing even every city in the United States except Chicago. The reasons for this increase can be traced to three causes. The first is the steady stream of immigration which flows from other countries toward the River Plate: in 1907, 329,122 individuals landed at the port; of these 209,103 were immigrants arriving for settlement within the country. The nationality of these embryo citizens is of great interest; Italy and Spain send the largest proportion, but Russia, Syria, France, Austria, Germany, Great Britain, and Portugal each sends over 1,000; every country in Europe offers some contribution, all divisions of Africa and many of the Latin-American republics are represented, while North America, China, and Japan and Africa help to swell the total. Not all of these immigrants become residents of Buenos Aires, some going farther into the interior, and a measurable proportion returning to their oversea homes (of course this does not imply that the same individuals come and go, but immigration usually surpasses emigration by certain fairly accurate accurate figures); the result, however, is that upward of 100,000 immigrants are added each year to the population. The second cause is the high birth rate enjoyed by Buenos Aires: for several years this has been steadily maintained at close to 35 per 1,000. This is twice as high as that of Paris, half again as high as that of London, higher than that of New York, and surpassed by the birth rate of Nuremberg (Germany) only. The third cause is the low death rate of the city, in which respect it compares very favorably with all the cities of the

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civilized world, being lower than that of Paris and New York, and higher than that of London, Edinburg, Berlin, and Hamburg. The results in the reduction of the death rate are due unmistakably to the



HOTEL METROPOLE, BUENOS AIRES.

One of the many splendid hotels of Buenos Aires, situated on Avenida de Mayo, in the heart of the business section of the Argentine capital.

great progress made by the municipality of Buenos Aires in all details of improving the hygiene of the city.



Buenos Aires is both a municipality and the capital of the Argentine Republic, and as such has an organization as a city as well as an intimate connection with the Federal Government. The latter association is maintained by means of an official called the Intendente (Municipal), who is appointed by the President (Poder Ejecutivo) of the Republic, subject to the approval of the National Senate, for a term of four years, and who receives a salary. He performs to a great degree the function of Mayor in any (North) American city, and is to a large extent amenable to the rules of the deliberate council. Through him municipal matters are presented to the National Assembly whenever necessary, and he likewise, as representative of the nation, is empowered, acting thus through the Minister of the Interior, to present to the municipality whatever business has originated in Congress. Other manifestations of this dual character of the city are to be found in the direction of the police and fire departments, which are under the control of, and the expenses of which are met by, the Federal Government. Certain factors of the educational system, and likewise the sanitary regulations of the city, carried out by means of a national department of hygiene and a municipal department of public service—the *Asistencia Publica*—are partly national in character. These institutions will be examined later.

The city, municipality itself, is divided into 20 parishes (*Parroquias*), corresponding to the wards of a (North) American city. From these parishes, on a basis of population, representatives are chosen by ballot of the citizens to form a body called the *Concejo Deliberante*, corresponding in most details to our Common Council. These officials serve without pay for a term of four years, one-half of their number being elected every two years, however. This so-called deliberative body chooses from among its members a President, a First and Second Vice-President. These officials serve as provisional substitutes for the Intendente whenever occasion requires.

The great departments of the municipal government may be classified as follows: Finance, which includes the functions usually understood in such a department; Public Works, having charge of municipal buildings, water supply, sewers, streets, paving, repairing and opening of streets and alleys, administration of building laws, control of public markets, bridges, parks, squares, and monuments; Security and Hygiene, giving particular attention to buildings like theaters, where public meetings are held; street cleaning, food supplies, regulation of weights and measures, certain authority over hospitals and asylums, prevention or control of epidemics, and the municipal side of the public relief service. Rules for the preservation of public morality are enforced through this department. A Law Department is also maintained.

Buenos Aires is located geographically at  $34^{\circ} 36' 21''$  south latitude, and  $58^{\circ} 21' 33''$  west longitude from Greenwich. It is prac-



POLICE DEPARTMENT, BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

This handsome building is the central station of the 32 police precincts into which the city of Buenos Aires is divided. The police force, consisting of about 4,000 officers and men, is supplemented by a mounted squadron of 100 gendarmes. The police department is well organized, and is noted for the quickness and effectiveness of its service.

tically at the same distance from the equator as Los Angeles, California, and is blessed with a similar climate. The city measures  $62\frac{1}{2}$

kilometers (40 miles) in circumference, and has an area of 18,141 hectares (about 70 square miles), equal in size, therefore, to Washington, D. C. (which in this respect is coextensive with the District of Columbia), but smaller than London, Marseilles, or Manchester, Greater New York, New Orleans, Philadelphia, and Chicago, and larger than Paris, Berlin, or Vienna. Ample preparation has been made for future growth, because the open spaces, exclusive of an extensive park system, will permit a much greater population than lives at present within its confines. In the city ten years ago there were 55,000 houses; 64,000 building permits were issued since then to 1906;



CHAPEL, CHACHARITA CEMETERY, BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

This cemetery, consisting of 182 acres of land, is five miles from the center of the city of Buenos Aires, with which it is connected by a tramway. It was opened for public use in 1867. In addition to a fine chapel, the cemetery has an excellently equipped crematory, and the location and topography of the land make it one of the great burying grounds of the Argentine Republic.

and in 1907 there were 14,489 building permits issued, which is the highest figure reached in the city's history.

The city is laid out on the rectangular plan, each square measuring 130 meters (almost 400 feet) on a side. The rectangular pattern is more evident away from the older portion of the city, where, despite the radical improvements within the past generation, some irregularity was unavoidably left. Every corner of street intersections is marked in clear letters by the name of the street, easily readable by the foot passenger; street numbering is on the century system. At the end of 1907, 7,000,000 square yards of pavement had been laid, the most



generally used being granite blocks with mortar foundation, then granite blocks with sand foundation, stone, wooden blocks, macadam, and asphalt.

The number of individual streets passes the 300 mark, but some of the longest have separate names for separate sections. If extended in a straight line they would measure about 600 miles. Many of them are fine, broad avenues 100 feet or more in width, only a few of the narrow passages of the earlier city being left after the reconstruction of the city from 1889 onward, and the law in force to-day is that no street opened in the future can be less than 17.32 meters (almost 60 feet) in width. In this connection it is worth mentioning that the municipal authorities have a commission for the encouragement of architecture in the city, and a prize—a gold medal together with a diploma—is offered yearly for the most attractively designed structure erected. In addition to this reward for the architect, the owner of the building is excused from payment of the taxes that would legally be imposed upon the premises. The building line, that is, the height of the structure relative to the width of the street, is carefully established and the law regarding it rigidly enforced. Fortunately neither the habit or the taste of the inhabitants encourages high buildings; the area of the city is so great that no special demand need arise for a central but congested "business portion," and therefore violation of the law would be not only a crime but an unpardonable offense against the artistic sense which is so characteristic of the Latin race. There is also a law regulating street advertising, and display signs are supposed to be kept within reasonable bounds, but it can not be said that in this respect the artistic temperament is so completely satisfied. The monstrosities of a Broadway do not, to be sure, repel the traveler, but even in Latin-America the temptation seems to be irresistible to occupy an empty space by a multi-colored signboard.

The municipal revenue is derived from many of the same sources that furnish funds to all cities, and is divided into five classes: (1) Revenue other than by taxation; this includes charges for paving and draining, chemical analyses, admission to Zoological Gardens (in Buenos Aires this garden, one of the finest in the world, is municipally owned and managed), advertising (signifying permits to do so), and other similar payments; (2) charges on private property and municipal enterprises, such as slaughterhouses, markets, cemeteries, crematories (for refuse), property leases, and the National Lottery; (3) direct taxes, including municipal licenses; (4) indirect taxes, such as those on buildings and land, inspection fees, control of weights and measures, and payments on admission to race courses; and (5) casual receipts of a miscellaneous character.



Among the sources of revenue included under the tax lists are imposts upon street cars, carriages, dogs, theaters, billiard halls, telegraph and telephone messages, the use of spaces beneath city streets,



THE GENERAL BELGRANO MAUSOLEUM, BUENOS AIRES.

This mausoleum contains the ashes of the illustrious Argentine general and patriot, Manuel Belgrano, who took a prominent part in inaugurating the revolution of May 25, 1810, in Buenos Aires, and whose celebrated victories over the Spaniards at Tucumán, in 1812, and Salta, in 1813, showed him to be one of the ablest and bravest generals of the Republic.

on provisions and wagons conveying them about the city, peddlers, hotels and such public houses, cellars, etc. Such a special taxation

as cities in the United States impose upon what are here called saloons, the intent of which is often quite as much for the purpose of prohibition as it is to raise revenue, is not applied in Buenos Aires, because the people are, in the main, temperate, and the business of dispensing beer, wine, or stronger alcoholic drink is not so specialized



MERCADO DE PILAR, BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

One of the numerous markets of the city of Buenos Aires. The stalls and stands are required to be kept scrupulously clean, and strict hygienic regulations must be observed in the sale of fruits, vegetables, meats, and other similar products.

there. A late report gives the number of cafés at about 400, of which 40 are at the same time restaurants, but of course this does not include the scores of small booths, or what are called delicatessen shops in Germany and the United States, where drinks of one kind and

another are sold alongside of foods, preserves, and the less substantial provisions for domestic consumption. Many shops sell drinkables, but saloons or barrooms are to be found only in the congested center of the city, where foreign habits have popularized themselves in a cosmopolitan sense. If it can be said to the credit of the inhabitants of Buenos Aires that they are not dangerously great drinkers of alcohol, it can be asserted, with equal commendation of their habits and of the watchfulness of the municipal administration, that they are remarkably fond of milk drinks and foods. There were at the last inspection 275 *tambos* (a milk shop with cows kept on the premises) and innumerable *lecherias* (inspected shops where milk is



MUNICIPAL SLAUGHTERHOUSES, LINARES, ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

The municipal slaughterhouses, which furnish Buenos Aires with an excellent supply of fresh meats, are located at Linares, a suburb within the limits of the corporation, about eight miles distant from the center of the city. These well-equipped establishments are models of neatness and order, and a source of revenue to the municipal government.

sold); in them pasteurized milk and cream is obtainable at a very moderate price a glass, and the cleanliness of the shops, the neatness of the fittings, and the attractiveness of the attendants go a long way to encourage the desire for milk and to neutralize the Anglo-Saxon custom of asking for malt or stronger alcoholic drinks. As one official puts it, "frozen milk (the equivalent of ice-cream) is the national drink during the dog days." The daily supply of milk for the city is close to 400,000 quarts, 93 per cent of which is brought from dairy farms close to the outskirts. All the cows are carefully inspected, and control is exercised over this food until it reaches the consumer.



The expenses for 1907 of the municipality of Buenos Aires amounted to \$20,751,300 national currency (\$1 national currency, written also m/n, = \$0.45 gold). Of this, \$2,552,000 is paid out as interest upon the city's public debt, and this amount equals 12.32 per cent of the total expenses of the municipality. The revenues for the same period amounted to \$24,239,408, a surplus being left therefore. For 1908 the budget was given out as \$27,226,644 national currency. Of this sum a goodly share goes toward payment of salaries of 7,140 employees on the city's pay roll, and the remainder is expended on new market buildings, \$500,000; new avenues and streets, \$700,000;

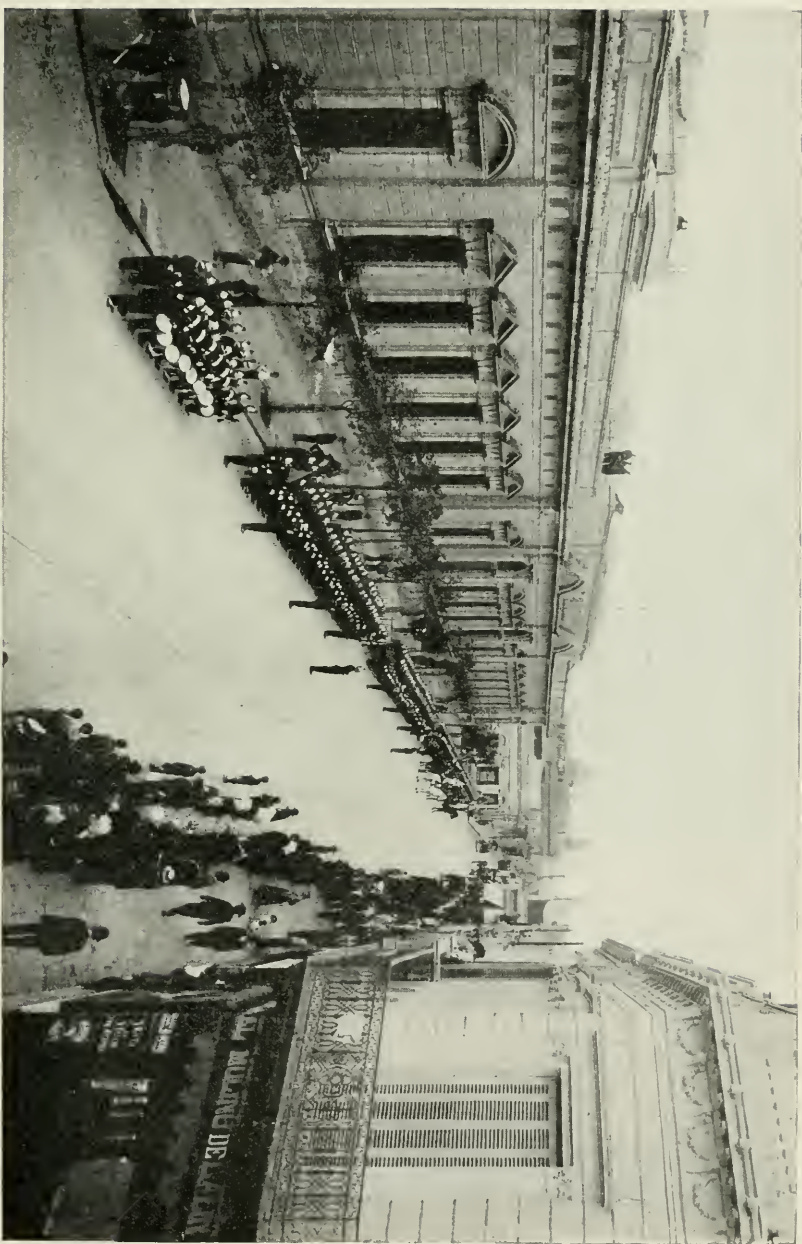


PRESIDENT MITRE SCHOOL, BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

This commodious and well-equipped edifice was specially constructed by the Federal Government for use of the primary and grammar grades. The public school system of Buenos Aires is under the control of a school board, and primary instruction is obligatory.

the Colon Theater, \$890,000; improvements on the Liniers Abattoir, \$540,000; acquiring works of art and for propagating national art and literature, \$50,000, and for a new charity institution, \$537,805, with other appropriations of a smaller nature. (All these sums are in national currency.) The ordinary expenses of the budget refer to the usual institutions maintained by a modern city. The police and fire departments, however, are supported and their organization controlled by the National Government. Although the municipality has certain jurisdiction over both in so far as they are necessarily subject to the regulations of the city and must be used to enforce





DRESS PARADE FIRE DEPARTMENT, BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

Buenos Aires has one of the best drilled and most efficient fire departments of any of the large cities of the world. The equipment is thoroughly modern, and excellent service is rendered on all occasions. The sixteen sections into which the department is divided comprise 1,200 officers and men. The gala parades of the department show the skill and ease with which this well-trained corps is able to perform the most complicated and difficult maneuvers.

certain ordinances and functions of the municipality, yet the responsibility for their payment and for their conduct falls upon the nation.

The Police Department consists of something over 4,000 members, at the last official statement the proportion to population being 1 to 260. Of this number, at least 100 are mounted policemen. For police purposes the city is divided into 32 districts, with a station in each and a central office in the heart of the city. The cost to the Government of this service is upward of \$6,000,000 national currency. The Fire Department has 1,200 members and 16 stations in separate



CANDY AND BISCUIT FACTORY, BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

The great industrial city of Buenos Aires is fast becoming a noted manufacturing center, and especially is this true of food products. Situated in close proximity to the sources of supply of the raw material, and under the beneficent stimulus of a wise policy of government encouragement and protection, manufacturing establishments are increasing at a rapid rate, and many articles which have hitherto been imported in considerable quantities are now manufactured to such an extent as to meet the demands of local consumption, while in some instances there is a surplus for export to the neighboring republics.

divisions of the city, and is considered an efficient brigade in every respect. In 1907 the fire losses amounted to \$5,803,975 (national currency), with 172 alarms. Both these departments have the distinguishing feature of being part of the military system of the country. Officially they are enrolled under the Department of the Interior, but in times of disturbance they are subject to orders of a military character, and the discipline maintained is much more military than civil.

Sanitation in Buenos Aires is controlled by both the national and the municipal authorities. The former is called the National De-

partment of Hygiene; the latter, *Asistencia Publica*, or Public Aid Service. The national body controls those conditions that more directly affect the whole country through the gateway of the city. It may be compared to the Marine-Hospital Service in the United States, or rather to what that service will be when harmonized with local boards of health. It watches over sanitary matters at the port, regulates vaccination, inspects drug stores, calls the attention of the municipality to unhygienic conditions it may detect in the city, supports the city authorities in cases of epidemics, and has certain offices to perform in all duties relating to hospitals or other charitable in-



THE PAVILION FOR ZEBUS AT THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

The Zoological Gardens are situated in the large and beautiful Palermo Park, which comprises an area of about 1,000 acres. The grounds are artistically laid out, and there are a number of artificial lakes, as well as attractive walks lined with shrubbery and trees. The principal species of animals are housed in separate buildings. These gardens become popular resorts on Sundays and holidays, at which time thousands of people visit them to inspect and admire the large collection of animals.

stitutions. The Public Aid Service has a more intimate function: it has charge of institutions of public aid; in its care is the municipal laboratory, the bacteriologic examinations, the machinery for disinfection, and, perhaps as important a service as any, it has active control of the relief ambulances that are ready for all emergencies and offer remarkably efficacious assistance in accidents of all kinds.

The water supply and sewer system of the city are virtually departments of the National Government, and the cost of maintenance is paid out of the National Treasury, but it must be noted that no city in the world has a superior service, and that, while the mortality



rate on account of this service has demonstrably declined to one of the lowest among cities of this class, provision is also made for meeting future growth. Water is taken from the River Plate far enough up to avoid any chance of pollution. The supply comes from wells driven beneath the surface of the river, and is pumped through tunnels to a central station in the city. Here the water is sedimented and filtered, and is then distributed to all portions of the city. The average daily water supply for 1907 was 126 liters (32 gallons) per inhabitant, but parts of the municipality are not yet reached by the system, although every effort is made to keep pace with the rapid



NEW MODEL MARKET, BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

The New Model Market of Buenos Aires is under municipal control. The arrangement is good and the location convenient. The greatest neatness and cleanliness are observed in the sale of food products, and the organization and management of the market is a credit to the municipal government of the city.

building going on. The sewerage system can be described in general terms as that of discharge into the River Plate below the city, so that it is finally carried out to sea without contaminating surrounding intakes. It is elaborately devised, is modern in every way, and, as gravity is not sufficient to carry off the sewage, a carefully adjusted plan of pumps and relief sewers answers every requirement.

The docks and harbors of the city were built by and are under the management of the National Government. They are divided into two sections, one along the Riachuelo forming the southern boundary of the city; the other, composed of the north and south docks or basins, lying in front of the city to the east on the River Plate.



The public lighting of the city of Buenos Aires is effected in four ways, by kerosene, alcohol, gas, and electricity. There are still 5,540 oil lamps in use and 1,163 alcohol lamps. Of gas lamps there are 24,767 (9,358 of which are incandescent). Electricity is supplied to 2,375 lamps of different watts power. There are 3 private gas companies with 87,203 subscribers, and rather high rates for the supply. There is only one electric company, a private organization, which furnishes current for both illumination and power. The municipality lights the new slaughterhouses and the outlying city divisions of Palermo, Flores, and Belgrano.

The public-school system is partly national, partly municipal, although it is all under the authority of the National Government. There are primary, secondary, commercial, industrial, and higher grades. The first is gratuitous and compulsory for children from 6 to 14 years, and is under the direction of the National Council of Education, which is supported by funds from both the National Treasury and certain municipal taxes. In Buenos Aires there are 88,951 public-school children in attendance in the primary grade, 2,505 in the secondary grade, 1,256 in the Commercial High School for Boys, and 246 in the same school for girls. Other schools of a public character advance the pupil in commercial or technical and industrial education, and finally the candidate for a degree may choose a course in the National University in Buenos Aires. This latter is not co-educational. There are also fine arts schools and special institutions for the deaf and dumb and for the blind.

Buenos Aires has only two public libraries, the National, supported by public funds; the other, called the Municipal Library, but supported by a private society. They are not developed to the degree of the many public institutions of the city.

There are 16 named theaters, besides several circuses and numerous cinematograph exhibitions. The Opera, but which will hereafter be in the new Colon Theater, is municipally owned and managed, and a source of great pride to the city, although not commercially a paying investment. As a rule, however, the taxpayers do not grumble over the cost, so long as they are sure that during the year they can see and hear the best art the world offers. The attendance at all theaters during the last year was 4,897,450, paying for their amusement \$6,481,645 national currency. That the inhabitants love entertainment out of doors as well as in, shows itself in the attendance at the Zoological Garden, which was 1,033,000, exclusive of school children (47,000), soldiers, sailors, and infants. This garden belongs to the municipality, together with the entire park system within the city limits of nearly 10,000,000 (4 square miles) square meters, which includes boulevards, squares, open spaces, and hospital gardens.

There are 9 public parks, the largest of which, 3 de Febrero, covers one-half the entire area, 14 boulevards and gardens, 35 squares, 10 open spaces, 9 hospital gardens, and 8 additions in construction. When it is considered that the prevailing style of house construction is one-storied and that the city has planted and cares for 150,856 trees outside all these parks, it will be seen that ample breathing space is provided by the municipality.

Buenos Aires controls 34 municipal markets, supervises 18 hospitals, maintains 3 public baths, a loan and savings bank, a public slaughterhouse, night refuges, a crematory, and a cemetery. There is a penitentiary, which is national, and a city house of correction for males, with a second for females.

Local traction is altogether in the hands of private initiative and operation. There are 14 traction companies, 5 being with horse power and 9 with electric power, with a total length of 550 kilometers (345 miles) over which the zone system of payment is maintained. They carried 225,000,000 passengers in 1907, an increase of 49,000,000 passengers in two years; 6,342 carriages, 1,327 automobiles, 77 motor cycles, and 20,379 carts add to the means of locomotion. The streets were the scene of 3,199 collisions and 1,074 other accidents.

The municipality publishes a Monthly Bulletin and a Year-Book, both full of statistical and general information.













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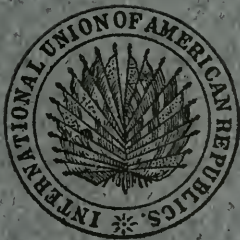
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MUNICIPAL ORGANIZATIONS IN LATIN AMERICA

RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

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(Reprint of an article from the Monthly Bulletin of the International  
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# MUNICIPAL ORGANIZATION IN THE LATIN-AMERICAN CAPITALS    "    "    "    "

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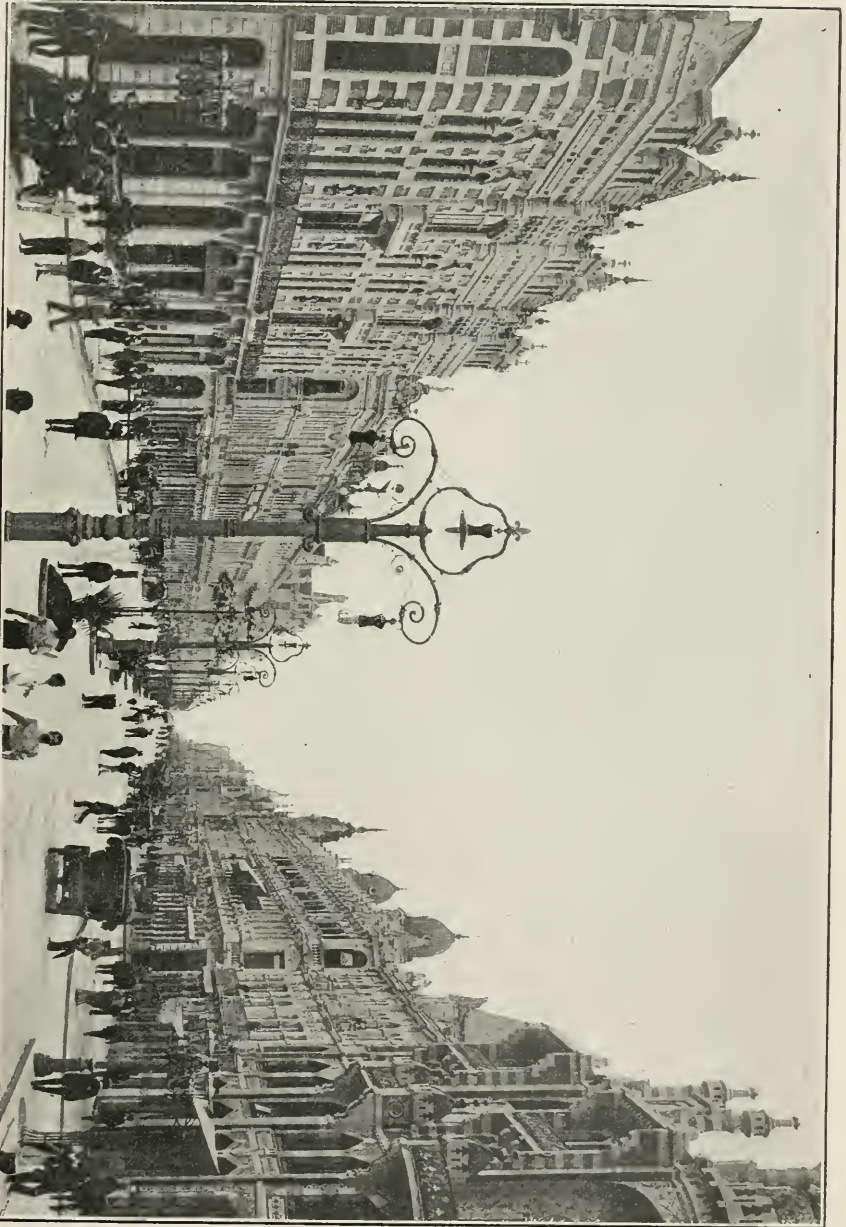
## RIO DE JANEIRO.

**I**N natural beauty few cities of the world can compare favorably with Rio. It is Naples and Stamboul, as seen from the sea, with hundreds of the choicest bits of the Morea and the islands of the Ægean and the grandeur of the Norwegian fjords rolled into one.

Fifteen years ago it might have been said with truth that in this nature's chef d'œuvre the handiwork of man appeared to no great advantage. Rio, in area one of the largest cities of the world, was a more or less disjointed group of small villages thrust in here and there between the mountains on the west of the great bay. It appeared broken and disconnected, a congeries of settlements, stretching around the sweep of the more or less inaccessible shore, with incursions here and there between the hills or up their slopes. On a nearer view the impression was more favorable. There were even then many beautiful buildings and parks. There were even places where one might say: "Here man has wrought worthy of his surroundings." But as a whole the city was disappointing. Perhaps most of all because it lacked unity and because nature pressed too heavily upon the observer and demanded too much.

All of this is changing, and most of it is already changed. Fifteen years has worked a marvel in the city, as great as a tale from the "Thousand and One Nights." Rio de Janeiro has been made over. It has been joined together. It is unrecognizable, but it is becoming beautiful. No such work in a city has ever been done before, except perhaps when Haussmann cleft Paris through and through into a half dozen great avenues, or when Peter built his capital on the Neva.

Many projects for the rebuilding or improvement of Brazil's capital were conceived prior to 1893, but the plan which finally took shape followed the installation of President RODRIGUES ALVES in 1892. He appointed as secretary of public works Senator LAURO MÜLLER, an engineer, and earnest advocate of the rebuilding plan. It was decided to begin the work, and for this purpose two loans were contracted, one a foreign loan of \$40,000,000, the other a domestic loan by the municipality of \$20,000,000. With these funds the work was begun in virtue of the decree of September 18, 1903.



AVENIDA CENTRAL, RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL.

The construction of this avenue was commenced November 15, 1905, and completed in twenty-two months, at a cost of about \$11,500,000. The sidewalks are 23 feet wide and the roadway 62 feet. In the center of the street is a row of 55 electric clusters, each with three lamps, planted alternately with 55 Tab Brazil trees, planted in beds 16 feet long by 6 feet wide.

In brief the plan was:

First, the construction of a quay following in general the shore line 3,500 meters long ( $2\frac{1}{8}$  miles):

Second, the construction of a large avenue parallel with the quay and of the same length:

Third, the rectification and prolongation to the sea of the canal known as Mangue, with an avenue on either side nearly 2 miles (3,000 meters) in length and 131 feet in breadth, lit by electricity:

Fourth, elevation of the railroad bed and construction of an avenue following the line of Francisco Eugenio street up to the Quinta do Boa Vista, the residence of the late Emperor DOM PEDRO;

Fifth, enlargement of the city water supply taking in all the nearby sources:



THE WATER FRONT, RIO DE JANEIRO.

Showing a portion of the Avenida Beira-Mar, a 6-mile boulevard skirting the bay. It is not an exaggeration to say that this avenue is unsurpassed in picturesque beauty and variety by any driveway of equal length in the world. On the occasion of the visit of ex-President General Julio Roca, of Argentina, in 1907, it was gorgeously illuminated throughout its entire length, as a feature in the scheme of entertainment in honor of that distinguished guest.

Sixth, revision of sewerage system:

Seventh, construction of an avenue,  $1\frac{1}{8}$  miles (1,996 meters) in length and 108 feet (33 meters) broad. This is the Avenida Central:

Eighth, cutting down certain hills in the city:

Ninth, widening the streets crossing the Avenida Central.

These plans were almost immediately enlarged through the suggestion of the incoming mayor of the city, Dr. FRANCISCO PASSOS, who was selected by President RODRIGUES ALVES as an aid to Doctor MÜLLER. The new improvements contemplated the widening of many other streets, the construction of a bay-side drive,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles long and 115 feet wide (7,000 meters and 35 meters), repaving the streets with asphalt, and other works for embellishing the city.



The improvement of the shore line was a work of the greatest magnitude. It involved the building of a stone quay over 2 miles in length along the east front of the city. The quay is built in many places at a considerable distance out from the old shore and incloses several islands and small bays. In front the harbor is dredged to a depth of 10 meters (32.8 feet) to a distance out, and following the line of the quay for 250 meters (820 feet). This forms a broad ship channel along the face of the quay. Back from the quay the land has been filled in to a depth of from 12 to 40 feet and an avenue 100 meters in width (328 feet) has been constructed following the line of the new shore.

This avenue is apportioned in three strips—a paved thoroughfare of 40 meters (131 feet) lined with rows of trees, then a strip of 35 meters for business houses and offices, then 25 meters for railway tracks. The whole quay is finished with the most modern hoisting, loading and unloading machinery and devices, and there are two electric plants for furnishing power and light.

Under the contract of September, 1903, the quay work which was begun in March, 1904, must be completed by July 1, 1910.

More striking perhaps than even the quay works has been the construction of the great Avenida Central, running in a straight line from sea to sea and serving as the principal outlet from the congested business section. The avenue is 1,996 meters long (6,500 feet) and 33 meters wide (108 feet). Over 600 buildings were demolished in preparing the way, 3,000 laborers working night and day. Trees are planted along each side and in the center. There are also flower beds in the center.

Some of the most beautiful and imposing buildings in Rio have been erected on the Avenida Central.

Another great avenue opened is the Avenida Beira Mar, the bay-side avenue. This is nearly  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles in length (7,000 meters). It begins where the western end of the Avenida Central meets the bay and, following the curves of the city front, stretches away to Botafogo Bay, a beautiful cove inclosed in a green frame of high hills. The work on the Mangue Canal and the building of the two bordering avenues, each 131 feet wide, is progressing rapidly. When completed the canal will be nearly 2 miles in length, stone faced, and crossed by numerous artistic bridges.

A marked feature in the building of the new streets in Rio de Janeiro has been the use of the rounded corner, the building line being marked on a curve of considerable radius. This adds a beauty and dignity to the architecture of the buildings and a grace to the appearance of the streets, in particular as seen on the Avenida Central, that is lacking in the cities of the United States.

In addition to the new avenues a number of streets in Rio de Janeiro have been improved so as to be almost unrecognizable to one



AVENIDA CENTRAL—BUILDING OF THE JORNAL DO COMMERCIO, RIO DE JANEIRO.

Many large and handsome office buildings are eloquent in attesting the general business prosperity, notably that of the *Jornal do Commercio*, which appears under construction in the illustration. The building has since been completed. This daily was established in 1824, under the name of the "Spectator," but in 1827 the name was changed to its present title. The *Jornal do Commercio* is the leading newspaper of Brazil. The greatest statesmen and politicians of the Empire and Republic have been, at different times, among its contributors.

who may have known the city a dozen or more years ago. Among these is the *Uruguayana*, 17 meters wide; the *Assemblea*, the same

width, giving a fine view of the bay: Carioca street, Visconde do Rio Branco, Floriano, 24 meters wide; Trezede Maio, Passos Avenida and Inhauma, 30 meters wide. These are all fine streets, with many handsome buildings and paved with asphalt.

Among the new buildings are the Monroe Palace, covering 12,000 square meters, one of the finest buildings on the continent; the new Municipal Theater, marble front, bronze decorated, with a fine dome; the (São Paulo and Rio Grande) Railway Building, gothic, appearing like a great middle-age castle; the Botanical Garden Railway Company Building; the Naval Club, new classic style; the Treasury Building, with its beautiful white and rose marble columns;



NEW BUILDINGS ON AVENIDA CENTRAL, RIO DE JANEIRO.

These structures are distinguished by their various styles of architecture. They are all new and thoroughly modern, averaging about 60 feet in height, although many of them are 125, 160, and 190 feet high.

the *Jornal do Comercio* Building, the Exhibition Palace, National Library, marble and steel, and numbers of others.

Many cities of the world have beautiful streets and beautiful buildings, but Rio alone has the Jardim Botânico. It is the central point of interest for tourists. What Vesuvius is to Naples, the Grand Canal to Venice, or the Golden Horn to Constantinople, is the Botanical Garden to Rio de Janeiro. Here is displayed all the luxuriant wealth of tropical flora in its most attractive aspect. Its magnificent avenue, a half mile in length, of royal palms, is worth a trip to Rio to see. Admission to the garden is free, and a line of trolley cars pass the main entrance.



The city of Rio de Janeiro and its environs constitute the Federal District of the United States of Brazil. The municipal organization of the district is controlled by the National Government, but the right of the 900,000 inhabitants to a voice in the management of local affairs is safeguarded in two ways:

(1) The district is represented in the Congress of Brazil by 3 senators elected for nine years and by 10 deputies elected for three years.

(2) A city council of 10 intendentes or members, elected by direct suffrage for a term of two years. The council meets in ordinary session twice a year.



A BAMBOO GROVE, BOTANICAL GARDEN, RIO DE JANEIRO.

The spacious grounds cover an area of nearly 2,000 acres situated on the border of the large suburban lake, Rodrigo Freitas, which is near the seacoast and separated therefrom by only a narrow strip of sand. Trolley cars from Rio pass the main entrance. This world-famed institution is supported by the general government for the purpose of botanical research and climatological experiments. Its natural beauty is further enhanced by the tropical luxuriance of Brazilian forests, the choicest specimens of native flora preserved in all their artistic settings, and many trees and rare plants from foreign lands.

The chief executive of Rio de Janeiro City is the prefect, who holds office for four years and is appointed by the President of the Republic and confirmed by the senate. Under him there are seven boards or directorias, as follows: Public estates board, public works and transit, board of health and public assistance, the council of education, the board of forests, gardens, game and fishing, the board of finance, and the board of police, archives and statistics. There are 3,080 municipal employees, with salaries amounting to annually



\$3,203,200 United States gold, an average of \$1,040 each. The revenue of the federal capital was in 1906 48,437,185 milreis, or \$16,177,260, while the expenditures were 48,132,715 milreis, or \$16,075,575, leaving a surplus of \$101,685. The funded debt, inclusive



PALACE OF THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS, RIO DE JANEIRO.

The department of public works is closely identified with the recently undertaken improvements to the city and harbor. Rio de Janeiro, being the federal capital, is under the jurisdiction of the government authorities, and public improvements are carried on under the direct supervision of this department.

of the floating debt on June 30, 1907, amounted to £7,000,677 sterling, or \$35,003,385 United States gold. The floating debt is £1,742,076, or \$8,710,380.

The sources of revenue, in 1906, were :

From state property, rents, leases and dividends.....	\$161,405
Public services.....	1,523,020
From taxation :	
Merchandise exported.....	121,505
Trades, professions, and companies.....	1,891,150
Real estate (house tax).....	3,742,975
Total from taxation.....	5,755,630
Heterogeneous and eventual.....	995,785
	<hr/>
Total ordinary.....	8,445,840
Extraordinary, loans.....	7,681,175
	<hr/>
Grand total.....	16,127,015

The expenditures for the same year were :

Executive, prefect, etc.....	\$29, 830
Legislature, deputies.....	143, 995
Hygiene and public assistance.....	309, 545
<hr/>	
Education, schools, colleges, and universities.....	1, 427, 745
Libraries, museums; etc.....	16, 705
<hr/>	
Total for education.....	1, 444, 450
Collection and distribution of revenue.....	626, 985
Administration and other public services.....	2, 329, 180
Public works.....	6, 418, 440
Pensions.....	266, 975
Eventual and heterogeneous.....	195, 425
<hr/>	
Service of the debt :	
Foreign funded, amortization and interest.....	59, 620
Internal funded, amortization and interest.....	3, 968, 015
Floating debt, amortization and interest.....	251, 965
<hr/>	
Total service of the debt.....	4, 279, 600
<hr/>	
Grand total.....	16, 044, 435

The public debt of the federal capital, in 1902, amounted to \$878,395 United States gold; in 1903, to \$793,200; in 1904, to \$1,170,885; in 1905, to \$1,730,300; in 1906, to \$2,699,245; and in 1907, to \$2,790,610, showing an increase in six years of 31.5 per cent.

Protection to life and property is adequately assured in the Federal District through a highly organized and efficient police force of more than 4,000 men and a civil guard of 600, which latter force is divided into two classes, the first having 400 men and the second 200. One hundred of the civil guards are held as a reserve. Besides the ordinary police, there is stationed in the federal capital a military establishment of one brigade each of the artillery and cavalry and seven brigades of the infantry of the Brazilian national army. Rio de Janeiro is divided, for police and civil administration purposes, into 20 urban and 8 suburban wards, each of which has its local prefect and other administrative agents.

The entire police department is under the supreme supervision of a general staff, consisting of a commandant-general, an assistant of the ministry of justice, an assistant of material, an assistant of the personnel, a secretary, and an adjutant of orders. The department is divided into the following sections:

1. Passports, licenses, and correspondence.
2. Criminal section.
3. Statistics.
4. Accountantship and exchequer.



**ASSEMBLEA STREET, RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL.**

One of the principal streets of the business section. This street is 56 feet wide, paved with fine buildings and has a charming perspective upon the bay. (Carriou and Vizconde do Rio Branco streets extend almost in a straight line from the end of Assemblea street, the three highways forming a continuous thoroughfare over a mile long.)

5. Medical service, with 1 director and 12 physicians.
6. Sanitary service, having 1 inspector, 1 fiscal, 10 physicians, 4 chemists, 1 assistant chemist, 1 surgical dentist, 1 oculist, and 7 temporary practitioners.
7. Archives.
8. Detention of prisoners.
9. Cabinet of identification and statistics, which has the subdivisions of identification, statistics, information, and photography.
10. Treasury.
11. Harbor police.



INSPECTION OF FIREMEN, RIO DE JANEIRO.

The fire-fighting force consists of 600 officers and men, organized on a military basis. The corps and equipment are so efficient and modern, and the service so well arranged, that only twenty seconds are required to get the engines out of the fire halls. All repair work is done by the firemen in the shops which adjoin the central station.

12. Inspectorship of the corps of investigation and public safety.
13. Inspectorship of vehicles (composed of 1 inspector, 2 accountants, and 60 assistants).

Each administrative district of the Federal Capital has a "delegate," representing the commandant-general of police, besides an official of justice, an accountant, generally, and several "commissioners," varying in number according to the importance of the district. The entire police force of Rio de Janeiro City is organized on a strictly military basis, and has one regiment of cavalry and two regiments of infantry.



The house of detention of the federal capital is under one administrator, assisted by a physician.

The house of correction is administered by one director, aided by one assistant director.

Rio de Janeiro in latitude  $22^{\circ}$ ,  $54'$  S., and longitude W. from Greenwich  $43^{\circ}$ ,  $10'$ , is about as far south of the equator as Havana, Cuba, is north. Its climate must generally be regarded as warmer than that of Havana, except on the summits of the surrounding mountains. There is a dry season from May to November, and a wet season from November to May. The mean annual temperature is  $75^{\circ}$ , the maximum  $80^{\circ}$ , in February, and the minimum  $70^{\circ}$ , in July.



TREASURY BUILDING, RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL.

The Caixa de Amortização, or Treasury Building, of the federal capital, fronts on the new Avenida Central, and commands especial attention because of its imposing proportions and attractive style of architecture. It is solidly and artistically constructed of stone.

Climatic conditions are modified by the southwest and southeast trade winds from the Atlantic. Sudden changes of twenty degrees, in the course of a day, are not infrequent. Health conditions are excellent. A comparison of the annual death rate of Rio de Janeiro, in 1905, with that of the leading cities of the world shows that the Brazilian federal capital, with a mortality per thousand of 21.7, is about on a par with Havana, 21.2; Genoa, 21.5; Dublin, 21.2; Milan, 21.1; and Marseilles, 21.4. The record for 1907, according to figures furnished by the board of health of Rio de Janeiro, proves that there was a marked decrease in the mortality of that city, notwithstanding

a considerable growth in population. The mortality for 1906 and 1907 was 13,960 and 12,106, respectively. This diminution is largely



CENTRAL STATION OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, RIO DE JANEIRO.

This most important institution for the protection of public and private property embraces a central station and six substations, one of which is located on the shore of the bay, and in addition to the usual equipment, is provided with two large fireboats for the protection of the harbor shipping. The central station is a handsome modern building, in which are maintained manufacturing and repair shops for the use of the department.

due to the admirable system of having in each urban and suburban district a branch of the central health department, where free medi-

cal assistance and advice are given to the poor, and whenever necessary skilled physicians and nurses visit them in their homes. The capital is, moreover, now exempt from yellow fever, a result which has been achieved by the distinguished Brazilian physician, Doctor CRUZ, whose energetic efforts have exterminated that former scourge of Rio de Janeiro.

The local census, taken September 20, 1906, showed that the federal district had on that date 811,443 inhabitants, 463,453 males and 347,990 females, living. The population has increased since 1890 by 288,792 souls—that is, by 55.26 per cent. The annual increase was 3.515 per cent. Rio de Janeiro thus compares very favorably with



RUA DA CARIOCA, RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL.

This typical business street of the metropolis of the Republic is important in retail trade.

Chicago, Pittsburg, Buffalo, and Cleveland. The annual birth rate in 1906 was 209.5 per 1,000. The area of the federal district is 538 square miles, and had, in 1906, a density of 1,338 inhabitants per square mile. Its area is nearly one and one-half times larger than that of New York, approximately twice as large as that of Chicago, virtually three and one-half times as much as that of Philadelphia, almost four times as large as that of London, and nearly eight times larger than that of the District of Columbia.

Although education has not as yet been made compulsory in Brazil, both the National Government as well as the municipality are promoting in every possible way universal instruction and self-improve-



ment among the inhabitants of the federal capital. Public as well as private instruction is conducted under the supervision of a "General directory of public instruction," and a "Superior counsel of instruction." The former organization is under a director-general.

Public instruction is divided into primary, corresponding to the primary and grammar grades of the United States, superior (high school and academic), and university. Under the first-named department it is interesting to note that there were 186 "primary public schools" in Rio de Janeiro City in 1907, of which 134 were for girls, 49 for boys, and 3 mixed. Seventy-two teachers, and 200 assistant teachers were employed in the primary department. The instruction



GONÇALVES DIAS SCHOOL, RIO DE JANEIRO.

This handsome school edifice in Rio is surrounded by a beautiful garden filled with tropical plants and trees. It faces Christovão Park, and is one of the most solidly constructed school buildings of the capital.

given was purely secular and comprised reading, writing, arithmetic, Portuguese grammar, geography, history, and general moral, scientific, and civic principles, drawing, calisthenics, and sewing, divided into three courses, elementary, intermediate, and higher. The primary schools are supplemented by what are known as "elementary schools," which are private institutions. They receive a subvention from the municipality on condition that they shall adopt the official programme and admit a certain number of children free. There are at present 79 schools of this sort, with 5,136 pupils and an average attendance of 2,370. The teachers are either normal-school graduates or have passed a special government examination.



Among the public institutions for superior instruction, should be mentioned the Instituto Professional for Males, which is limited to 300 pupils. Students enter at the age of 12 and leave at 20. The subjects taught are: Primary courses, music and drawing, carpentry, cabinetmaking, sculpture, typesetting, bookbinding, tailoring, iron and tinsmith's work, and bootmaking. In the Female Instituto the number of pupils is limited to 120 and applicants are admitted up to 15 years of age. Instruction is given in the primary courses, elements of hygiene, shorthand, typewriting, domestic economy, drawing, music, sewing, embroidery, and artificial-flower making.

The federal capital maintains five "model schools" in which certificated teachers, intending to become professors, are trained as assistants. The normal school, or "pedagogium," has a curriculum of four series: (1) Portuguese, French, arithmetic, geography, music, manual training, needlework, handwriting, and calisthenics; (2) Portuguese, French, algebra, geometry, geography, history, linear drawing, music, and needlework; (3) Portuguese, French, American history, physics, pedagogy, manual training, and ornamental designing; (4) Brazilian literature, chemistry, history of Brazil, and civic instruction, pedagogy, hygiene, and drawing from the model. The school is under the direct superintendence of the council of education. From 1900 to 1904, 320 students received certificates as normal teachers. All such certificated teachers must practice under certificated professors for one year and obtain certificates of competence as professors. The pedagogium is also intended to serve as a school for higher education of primary professors. Classes are held at night and comprise "permanent courses" of physical and natural sciences, "contracted courses" on letters, biology, and pedagogy, and "free courses" on mathematics, philology, sociology, technical industries, arts, etc. In 1902 seven courses were given; the number of students was 153. In 1903 ten courses, with 143 students, were given, and in 1904, 17 courses with 194 students.

There is in Rio de Janeiro city no university, properly so called, but there are in Brazil six faculties which confer degrees, of which two—the Faculty of Medicine and the Polytechnic School—are located in the capital. The cost of university education is provided—by an annual grant that for the last ten years has ranged from 2,600,000 milreis to 3,400,000 milreis (\$866,667 to \$1,133,334 United States gold).

The Polytechnic School was founded December 4, 1810. It grants certificates of civil, mining, industrial, and mechanical engineer, and the title of agronomist and geographical engineer. This school ranks in every respect among the best of technical institutions in the world and offers six distinct courses, namely, a "funda-

mental course" (three years), a course of civil engineering (two years), a course of mining engineering (two years), a course of industrial engineering (two years), a course of mechanical engineering



COMMERCIAL AND OFFICE BUILDINGS, AVENIDA CENTRAL, RIO DE JANEIRO.

This famous avenue was laid out and many of the old buildings demolished and reconstructed within a remarkably short period of time, presenting an example of activity and progress in city building unequalled in the world. Some of the edifices cover an entire square and represent an expenditure of sums from half a million to five millions of dollars.

(two years), and a course of agricultural engineering (two years). There are 52 professors among the faculty of the school.

The total number of professors at the different municipal schools of the federal district is 875, as follows: There are 6 directors of model schools, 193 head masters, 300 permanent professors, 7 of the elementary first class, and 72 of the elementary second class: total, 778. The normal school (Pedagogium) has 45 professors and assistants. Technical education has 52 professors.

Private initiative and philanthropy (both on the part of the native Brazilians, as well as of the foreign residents) have ably cooperated with the public authorities in increasing the opportunities for universal education by establishing and maintaining throughout the federal capital a great variety of primary schools, academies, colleges, and other institutions of instruction, which are of the highest excellence.

The National Government of Brazil maintains in the federal capital the following educational institutions: Deaf and dumb and blind asylums, the National School of Music, the National School of Art, the Military Academy, the Preparatory School of Tactics, and the Naval School.

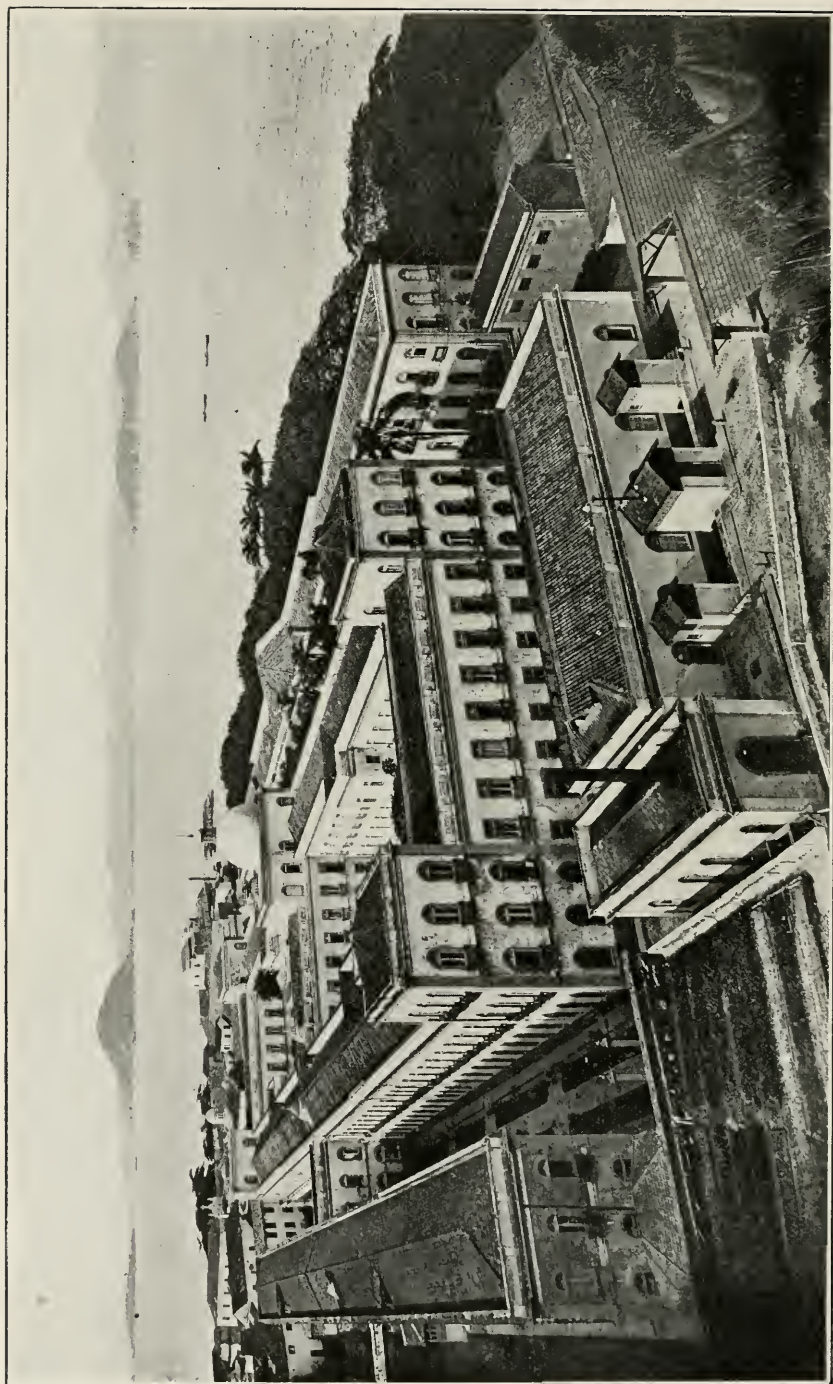
The National School of Art was founded in 1816. A fine new building is now in course of erection in the Central avenue. The National School of Music was founded in 1847. The staff consists of 19 professors and 13 assistants. The Military College was founded in 1889. Children and grandchildren of army officers and of privates killed in action are educated at public expense; civilians are admitted on payment. From this college students pass to the higher military or naval school, but it is not obligatory.

The School for the Blind, called the "Instituto Benjamin Constant," was founded in 1857. The land on which the building stands covers 9,516 square meters, or 102,373 square feet, on the shores of the beautiful bay of Botafogo, and was a gift from the Emperor DOM PEDRO II. The Deaf and Dumb School was founded in 1856. There are about 600 children who receive oral instruction in this institution.

The city of Rio de Janeiro is well provided with libraries, of which there are 12. Two of these, the National and the Municipal, and the rest belong to associations or to the Brazilian army and navy. The National Library Building, now in course of construction, will be the most magnificent in South America. The origin of this library was due to the flight of King João VI, of Portugal, to Brazil, in 1807. It contained, in 1907, 130,000 volumes, a valuable collection of 25,150 medals, many of them very rare, and 100,000 engravings. The average monthly attendance of readers is 3,300.

The "*Gabinete Portuguez de Leitura*" is the most beautiful building in Rio de Janeiro. The library comprises 7,000 volumes, ad-





THE HOSPITAL DA MISERICORDIA, RIO DE JANEIRO, FOUNDED IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY.



mirably arranged. The collection of camoëna (Camões) is believed to be the most perfect in existence.

The hospitals and asylums of the Federal District are undertaken chiefly by private associations assisted by the Government. Among the most important of these institutions are the following: Maternidade, or lying-in hospital, which is a private association assisted by the National Government. The Institute for the Protection and Assistance of Children. The society, besides giving medical advice and aid to poor children, is of inestimable benefit to women who are about to become mothers.

The Hospital da Misericórdia, of Spanish origin, was founded by the Jesuit priest Father ANCIETA in the sixteenth century. Its modern reorganization was in 1840. Thirty years were required to complete the edifice. It can take care of 1,200 patients, and is designed especially for the accommodation of sick sailors of all nations. The hospital is divided into four departments: The Asylum of Misericórdia for Abandoned Girls; the Asylum of Santa Maria for Old Women; the Hospital of Nossa Senhora dos Dolores at Casadura, for Consumption, and the Pasteur Institute for the Treatment of Hydrophobia.

The Casa de São José for male orphan or neglected children of 6 to 12 years of age is accomplishing excellent work. There is a similar asylum for female children. Both institutions are maintained by the municipality. The Fifteenth of November Reformatory for Vagrant Children is an institution of the National Government, and is under the supervision of the police. The Gonçalves Araujo Asylum is conducted and supported by the Candelaria Brotherhood.

Among the most interesting of other philanthropical associations are the 181 registered "friendly societies," whose accumulated funds in 1902 amounted to \$3,550,235, and they had an aggregate income of \$391,515. They distributed, in 1902, \$30,915 among associates, and since the founding of the earliest of these associations, a Swiss society, in 1821, have distributed \$3,398,635. The 181 societies, in 1902, had a total of 93,851 associates.

The government of the Federal District maintains a strict supervision over factories and stores. Under the present law the majority of shops close at 8 o'clock on ordinary nights and at 4 on holidays. Only cafes, bars, and restaurants are open all day on Sundays, and grocers and tobacconists up to 12 (noon). Other places of business are required to be closed.

Lighting, rapid transit, and motive power are exclusively furnished in the Federal District by the Rio de Janeiro Tramway, Light and Power Company, operating under a concession from the municipality, and registered in Toronto, Canada. The company possesses a tre-

mendous natural source of power on the River Das Lages, 51 miles distant from the city of Rio de Janeiro. It has installed at this point one of the most extensive and modern hydraulic-electric generating systems in the world. The company is the owner of the share capital of the *Companhias São Christovão, Carris Urbanos and Villa Isabel*, which provides about three-fourths of the tramway service of Rio de Janeiro. The various concessions granted by the federal capital were consolidated and extended until 1970, by virtue of a contract made with the municipality, in November, 1907, the Rio de Janeiro Tramway, Light and Power Company to install electric lighting and power



THE PALACE OF THE PRESIDENT, RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL.

throughout the capital within a period of about three years, and to construct about 200 miles of new lines. The lines of the *Villa Isabel* are already electrified, and the work of transforming the traction of the other companies is commenced.

The *Societe Anonyme de Gaz de Rio de Janeiro*, a Belgian enterprise, was acquired by the company, which now controls the whole of the illumination of the capital by gas and electricity, through a concession granted by the Government in 1905 with a monopoly until 1915. All parts of the city are now illuminated by gas, the electric lighting being confined for the present to the new avenues recently opened and the central commercial section. Electric light-

ing is to be greatly extended during the present year. The Rio de Janeiro Tramway, Light and Power Company (by a concession from the municipality) enjoys a monopoly for the distribution of electric power, produced in a hydraulic installation until 1915, and thereafter the right continues without monopoly until 1990. There is now furnished 3,000 horsepower, but this will soon be greatly increased. Concessions recently acquired by the company give it full control of the telephones throughout the Federal District. The entire system has been largely reconstructed with a new building, having a new central telephone board of the most modern design. Improved instruments have been given to the 2,500 subscribers, whose number will soon be increased to 5,000. Street circuits have been rebuilt and a large amount of aerial cables has been installed to take the place of the network of overhead wires in the streets, thus greatly improving the service. A large part of the system is in underground cables, and it is expected that this will be extended from year to year until all overhead wires in the populous districts have been removed.











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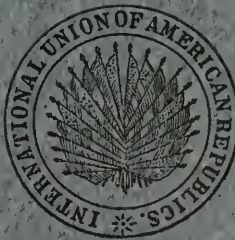
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MUNICIPAL ORGANIZATIONS IN LATIN AMERICA

SANTIAGO DE CHILE

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(Reprint of an article from the Monthly Bulletin of the International  
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WASHINGTON, D. C.  
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# MUNICIPAL ORGANIZATION IN THE LATIN-AMERICAN CAPITALS    ::    ::    ::    ::

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## SANTIAGO DE CHILE.

**S**ANTIAGO lies at the head of the great central valley of Chile on the Mapocho River. To the west, the Cordillera of the Coast stretches north and south, a range of hills and low mountains parallel with and near to the Pacific.

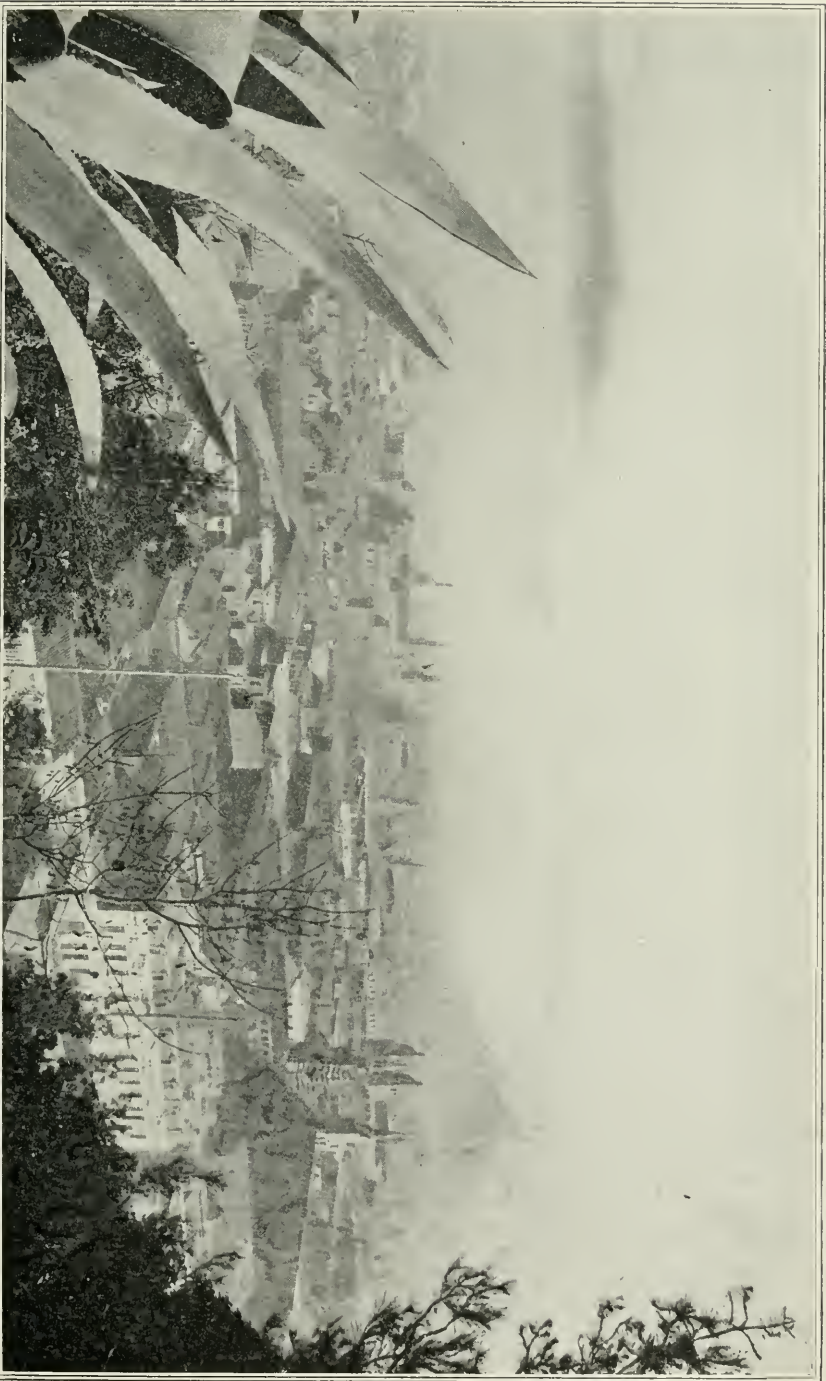
This range now represents the worn-down remnants of what was once a great mountain system and the oldest land in the southern half of South America.

To the east rises in magnificent grandeur that great fold of the earth's crust known as the Cordillera of the Andes. The Andes are new mountains, with their angularity and roughness unworn and unsmoothed by long-continued action of the elements. Between the two cordilleras, the old and the new, lies the central valley of Chile, shut off at the north by a spur of the Andes extending to the coast. At the foot of this spur lies Santiago.

By railway from Valparaiso one arrives at the capital unexpectedly. After leaving Llai-llai the line runs through a more or less barren country, rough and rocky, and then suddenly from out of this wilderness the train enters a long street between walls and houses, and the traveler finds himself almost in the center of a large city and at the beginning of the most beautiful street in that city.

This street, the Alameda, is one of the beautiful avenues of South America. It is a fine, broad driveway planted with a double row of gigantic poplars and lined for its greater length with fine buildings. The promenade in the center is set with statues erected to the memory of the heroes of the war of independence, SAN MARTIN, O'HIGGINS, FREIRE, MOLINA, CARRERA, and others.

The most notable natural feature of Santiago is the hill or rock of Santa Lucia, 300 feet in height, which rises almost from the heart of the city. On Santa Lucia, PEDRO DE VALDIVIA established his stronghold, and around its base he founded the first town in Chile, which he named after the patron saint of Spain. The town was laid out in squares, as it is to-day, with the lines running east and west and north and south.



A VIEW OF SANTIAGO, CHILE.

The capital of Chile was founded in 1541 by Pedro de Valdivia. It lies on a fertile plain on the banks of the Mapocho River, near the foot of the Andes, at an elevation of about 1,800 feet above sea level, and has a population of nearly 400,000 inhabitants. It is connected by rail with Valparaiso, 42 miles distant, which is its seaport. Santiago is noted for its beautiful parks and the splendid architecture of its buildings.

To each of VALDIVIA'S followers was given one square for a garden and upon which to build his house. After the conquest, for four hundred years Santa Lucia remained what it was in VALDIVIA'S time, a bold and unsightly rock rising out of the midst of the growing city.

After it ceased to be a stronghold and refuge from the Indians, it had no use until about a hundred years ago, when it began to be used as a Protestant cemetery. Near the close of the nineteenth century Santiago determined to convert this unsightly eminence into the beautiful park it is to-day. The necessary expense was borne, not alone by the Government and the municipality, but, in a large measure, by private contribution. The scheme included not only the beautification of Santa Lucia, but also the laying out of other parks, the broadening and repaving of streets, and, what was the greatest work of all, the rebuilding of the Alameda de las Delicias, the Via Appia of Santiago. Cousiño Park, one of the most popular retreats in Santiago, is named after Don LUIS COUSIÑO, who donated the park of 330 acres to the city.

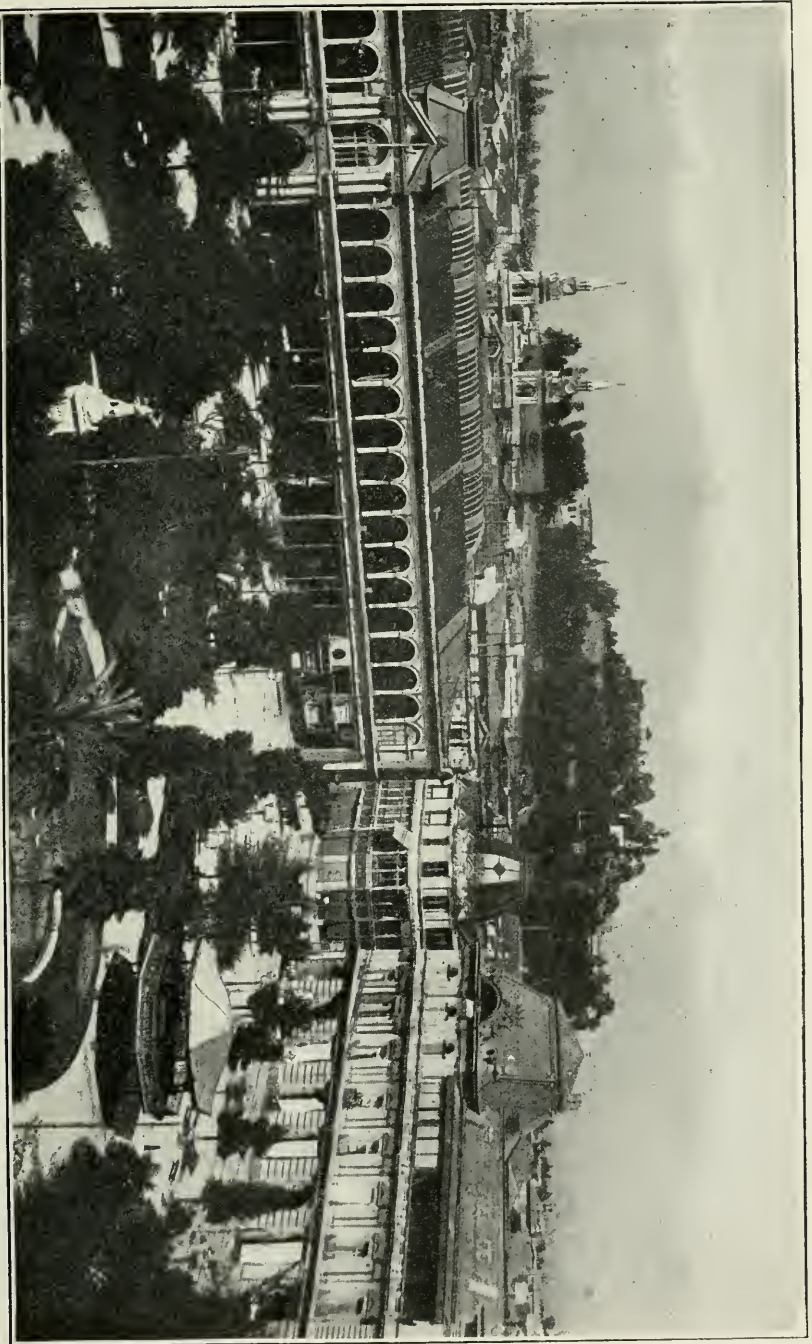
Beginning in 1872, under the administration of Don BENJAMIN VICUÑA MACKENNA, the improvement of Santiago has been continued down to the present time.

When Santiago was merely a Spanish colonial village on the banks of the Mapocho River, the Alameda de las Delicias was the ordinary main highway leading to the town. Much of the land over which the road passed was low and marshy, and for a distance it occupied what had been the bed of a small branch of the Mapocho. As late as fifty years ago it was an ill-kept and most unattractive thoroughfare, paved with rough, uneven, and ill-set stones. To-day it is a broad avenue, 350 feet wide and nearly 3 miles long, extending across the city from the hill of Santa Lucia to the Central Railway Station. Trees and flowers are everywhere interspersed with fountains, statuary, and other works of art.

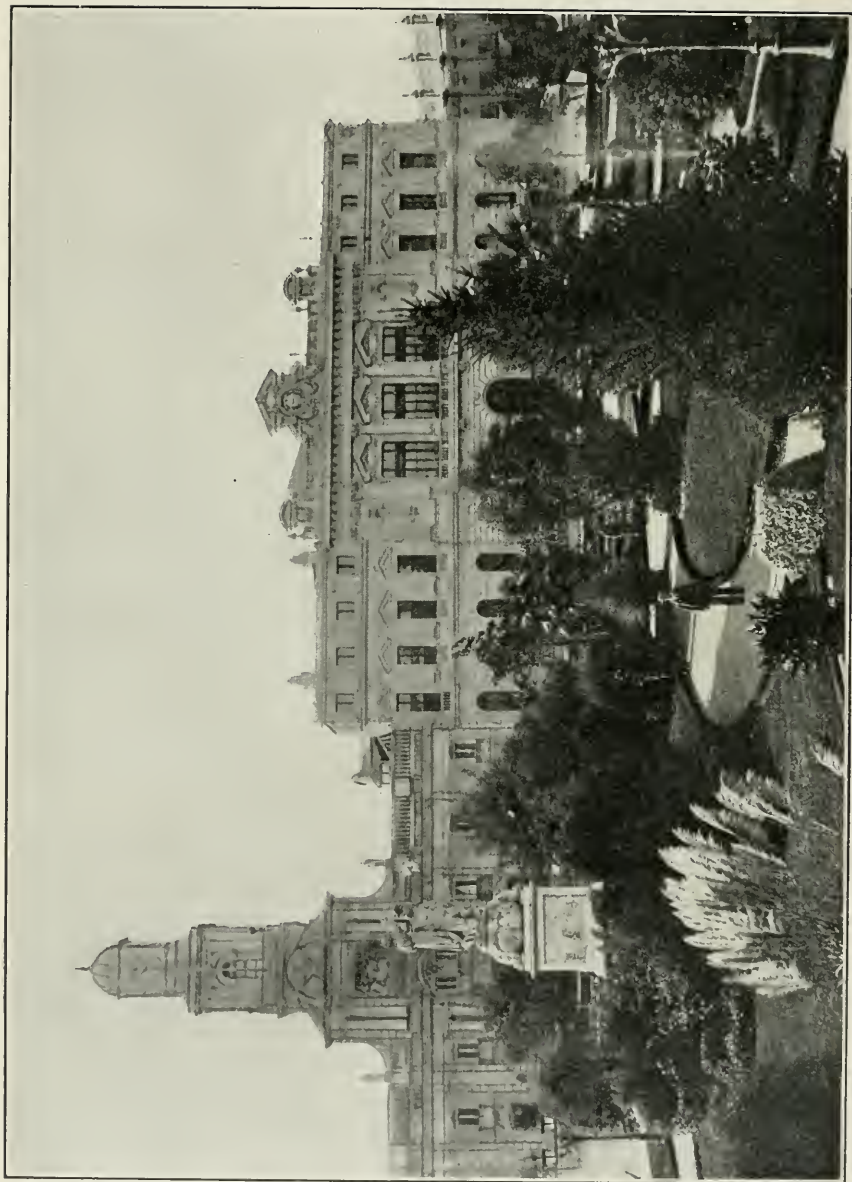
Two of the most noted pieces of statuary are the equestrian statues of SAN MARTIN and O'HIGGINS. The celebrated liberator, General JOSÉ SAN MARTIN, who led the patriot army across the Andes in the cause of Chilean independence, is represented holding in his hand the standard of liberty, the horse thrown back on his haunches. General BERNARDO O'HIGGINS, "the bravest of the brave," is shown with sword extended at arm's length in air, his horse in the act of leaping some obstacle on the battlefield of Rancagua.

Santa Lucia is now one of the most remarkable parks in existence. The whole hill presents one mass, almost bewildering, of grottoes, terraces, stairways, stucco work of all kinds, planted with a luxuriant growth of semitropical vegetation through which paths wind in and out to shady nooks or observation points. The view from any one of these points is most attractive. At the foot, the city with a popula-





VIEW OF A SECTION OF THE PLAZA DE ARMAS, SANTIAGO, CHILE, SHOWING A PORTION OF THE CAPITAL CITY IN THE DIRECTION OF SANTA LUCIA HILL, A POPULAR BREATHING PLACE AND PROMENADE FOR THE INHABITANTS OF THE CITY.



PLAZA DE LA INDEPENDENCIA, SANTIAGO.

The plaza, which is also known as Plaza de Armas, is the promenade of Chilean society, where an excellent band furnishes music in the evenings. The building to the right is the municipal palace, and the statue on the left represents America receiving the baptism of fire of Independence.

tion of 400,000 stretches out around the hill and on both sides of the Mapocho, with parks large and small relieving the geometrical regularity of rectangular crossings. Through the whole cuts the broad Alameda lined with stately and beautiful buildings with the broad promenade down the middle masked in a floral wealth of almost tropic luxuriance.

To the east and northeast, seemingly almost within touch, rise 17,000 feet in air the rugged and overpowering Andes, jagged, scarred, snowcapped, and awe inspiring. To the west the low coast range shuts off the ocean, and to the south, spreading out until lost in the distance, lies one of the garden spots of the world, the rich Central Valley of Chile. There appear to be no foothills; the Andes rise abruptly from the plains, making the picture as seen from the crest of Santa Lucia the more perfect and satisfying.

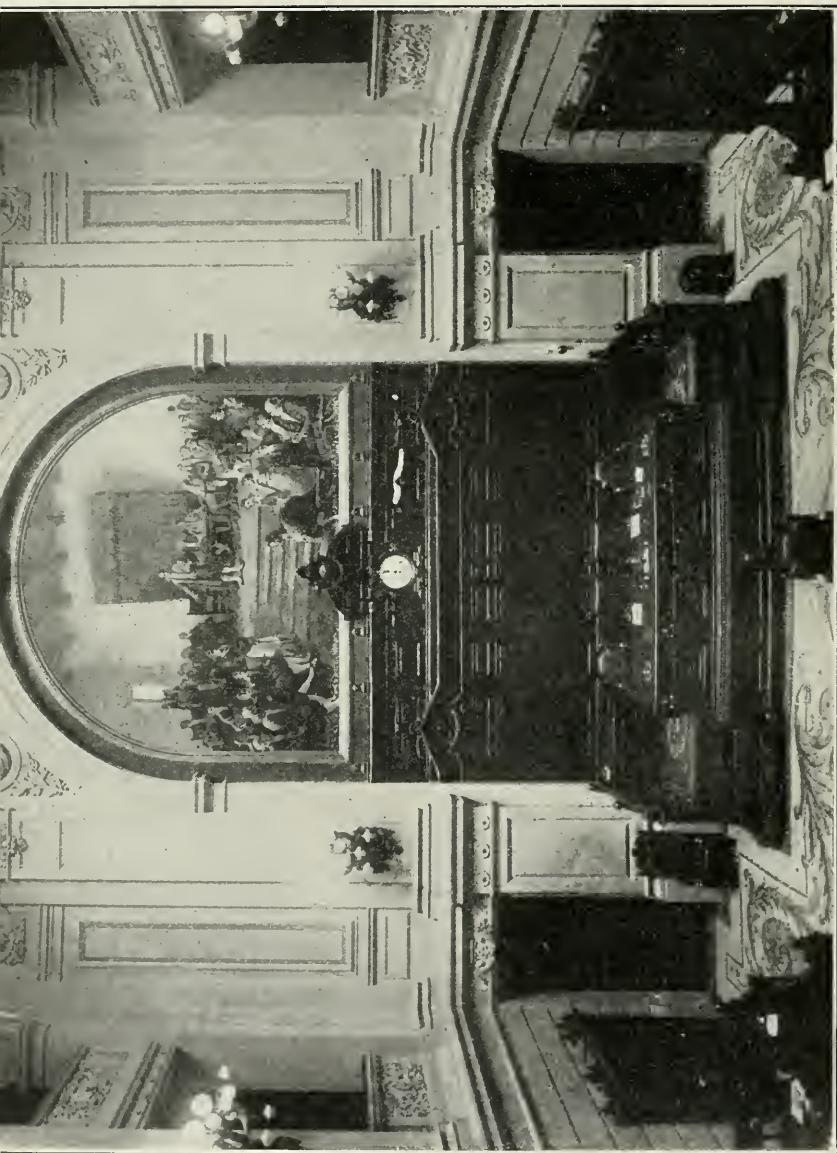
Among the most striking buildings in Santiago are: La Moneda, the residence of the President of the Republic, in which are located also the offices of several of the Government departments; the national Congress Hall, a modern construction of vast size and magnificent architecture; the Intendancy of the province and the city hall, in which are installed the principal offices of local administration; the cathedral, which has been completely reconstructed and adjoining which is the archiepiscopal palace, the residence of the Metropolitan of Chile; the post-office, a modern and handsome building; the National Library, a large edifice covering 22,000 square feet, containing about 15,000 volumes; the Palace of Justice, in which the Supreme Court, the Courts of Appeal, and several minor courts and offices are located; the Army Building, the headquarters of the army, and also the barracks of the President's guard of honor.

Other public buildings are the Municipal Theater, one of the best in America; the Palace of the Exposition, the University, the Ordnance Building, Medical School, School of Arts and Trades, Astronomical Observatory, Home for Orphans, Insane Asylum, Agricultural Institute, National Conservatory of Music, and the Catholic Seminary.

Near the Cousiño Park is the racing park, one of the most popular meeting places in the city.

The Agricultural School Farm, one of the most interesting and valuable centers of instruction, covers 320 acres and was founded in 1842. Connected with the school farm are several institutes—the botanical garden with four large conservatories containing several thousand plants; the agricultural institute, which has under its charge the higher branches of agriculture; the agricultural training school, whose principal aim is to create specialties in agriculture, having, with other dependencies, departments of viticulture and viniculture; vaccine institute, veterinary institute, and laboratories devoted to





SENATE CHAMBER OF THE CHILEAN CONGRESS.

The Capitol of Chile is considered one of the handsomest public structures in South America. It is rectangular in shape, measuring 250 by 256 feet and occupying the entire square. The painting shown in this view represents the meeting of the First Congress of Chile, at which the Constitution was framed and adopted.



agricultural chemistry and vegetable pathology. Agricultural instruction is free and is supported by government.

Mining instruction is given in the university and in a special school devoted to training mine superintendents.

Industrial instruction in most branches has been very highly organized both in the university and in the School of Arts and Trades. This institute is one of the most important in the country. The *Sociedad de Fomento Fabril* has founded and manages schools of industrial drawing, modeling, and electricity. A commercial technical institute has over 500 pupils.



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHILE, SANTIAGO, CHILE.

This government institution was founded in 1843, with Don Andres Bello, a philologist of world-wide reputation, as its first president. The courses of study in its several schools cover a period of five to seven years.

The university offers instruction through faculties of law, medicine, and engineering. Courses in law and engineering are five years each; medicine is a six years' course. The School of Medicine in particular enjoys a very high reputation in all Latin-American countries. The Institute of Pedagogy is for the preparation of teachers in schools of secondary instruction and the two normal schools for teachers in primary schools.

The Board of Public Hygiene has charge of matters of sanitation. The Institute of Hygiene, directed by the board, is divided into five departments—hygiene and statistics, chemistry and toxicology, microscopy and bacteriology, serotherapy, and disinfection. In



THE ALAMEDA, SANTIAGO, CHILE.

The boulevard extends some distance along the foothills of the Andes, forming a magnificent driveway and promenade in one of the most beautiful and desirable residence sections of the capital. Formerly it was lined with two rows of massive poplars. Recent improvements caused the destruction of many of these giants, although other trees planted in their stead are rapidly restoring the avenue to its former beauty.

addition there are special departments of public health having charge of matters pertaining to infectious diseases, vaccination, and chemical study and analysis of food products.

One of the most important establishments for securing instruction is the National Institute, with a roll of about 1,500 matriculates.

Private and church schools supply instruction to about 30,000 pupils a year, and instruction in the fine arts is given in the School of Fine Arts and in the Conservatory of Music.

Military instruction is given in the Military School, which corresponds to West Point in the United States, and where young men in preparation to become army officers are educated; also in the War



THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SANTIAGO, CHILE.

The library contains more than 150,000 volumes and manuscripts, and circulates about 40,000 volumes annually. To the left is a statue of Don Andres Bello, first president of the National University of Chile, who, although born in Venezuela, spent most of his life in Chile working for the intellectual uplift of its people.

School, attended by army officers of all grades and where the higher branches of military art are studied; in the Target Practice School, which is specially devoted to practice and instruction in ballistics, and the School for Non-commissioned Officers, where young men are prepared for the lower grades of army command.

The city of Santiago is a municipality in the Department of Santiago, Province of Santiago.

The idea of communal autonomy, so common and basic, not only in the political economy of Greece and Rome, but also in that of the Teutonic and Slav races of the north and east of Europe, has had





SOLDIER OF A CHILEAN CAVALRY REGIMENT ON A WAR FOOTING.

The military organization of Chile is modeled after the German army, and German instructors are employed with this end in view. The active army in time of peace consists of sixteen battalions of infantry, six regiments of cavalry, and seven regiments of artillery, with auxiliaries. All able-bodied citizens of Chile are obliged to serve, liability for which extends from the eighteenth to the forty-fifth year.



but scant hold in Spain since the Roman colonial period and until very recent times. It never had any foothold whatever in the Spanish colonies. As said by Señor AUGUSTIN CORREA BRAVO, one of the leading jurists of Chile, in his Commentaries on the Law of Municipal Organization:

In Chile, as in all the old Spanish colonies, the commune was unknown until established by law. From the earliest period of the conquest the system of *encomiendas* prevailed in our country, by virtue of which the conquerors divided among themselves the land and the people inhabiting it, thereby making impossible those groupings of small proprietors and of local interests which elsewhere formed the base or were the actuating cause of the municipality. Nor was the period of political and social reconstruction which followed independence the most appropriate for promoting the organization of the commune, and the isolated efforts made in this direction were unfruitful. The habits and unprogressive customs of the colonial period continued under the new régime.

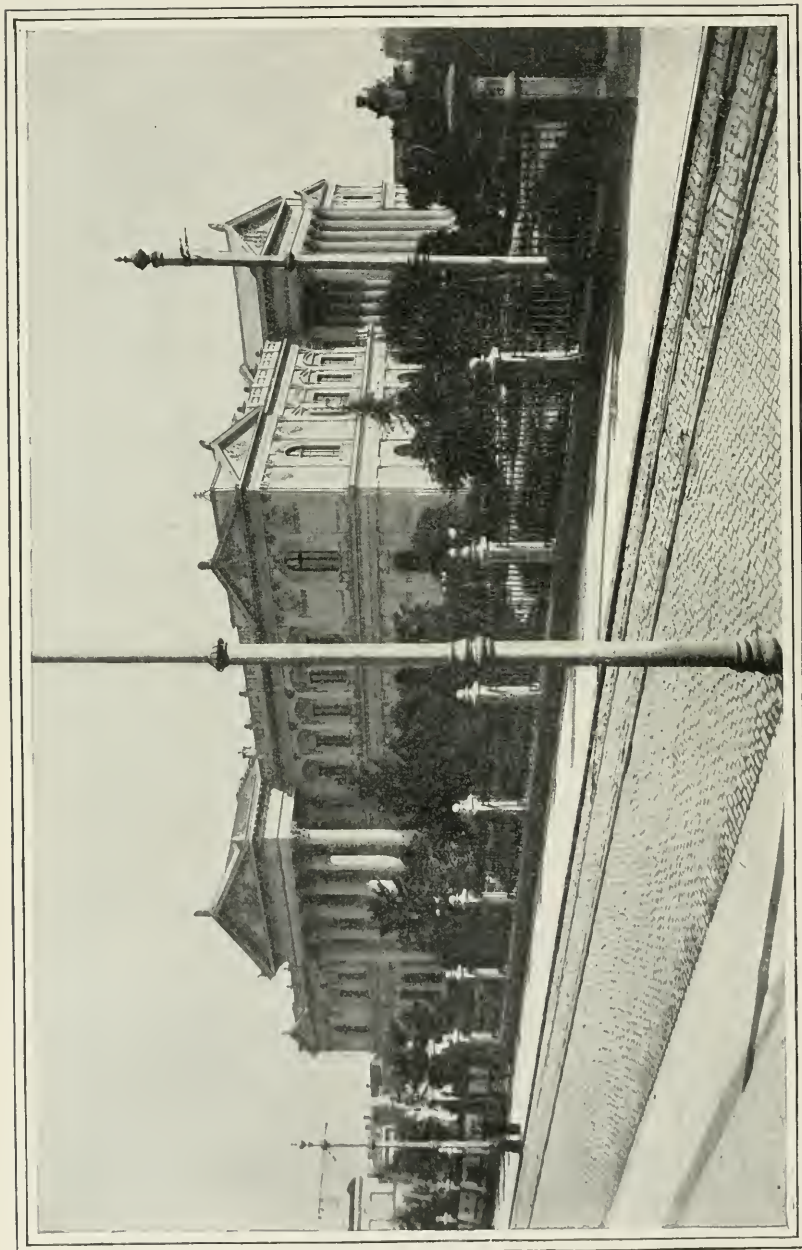
The first law in Chile having to do with the organization and attributes of municipalities was promulgated November 8, 1854, and this law was enacted for the express purpose of bolstering the system of administrative centralization against which complaints were more or less openly made. By virtue of this law all municipal services were under the immediate direction of intendentes and governors, the immediate agents of the President of the Republic. The municipal councils which had been provided for in the constitution (Art. 113) were treated as purely consultive.

The law of September 12, 1887, gave a new organization to municipal affairs and stripped the intendentes and governors of a part of the attributes they had before enjoyed. This law marks the effective establishment in Chile of municipal as opposed to centralized government of cities.

Following this law came the present organic act, the law of December 22, 1891, which is the charter and constitution of all city government in Chile. Article 2 of this act provides that the city of Santiago shall be divided into ten sections or wards (*circumscripciones*) which shall elect each three municipal councilors who together shall compose the municipal council.

The three councilors in each ward form a local board having certain local powers and duties mainly in connection with elections.

Municipal councilors are chosen by popular election. They must be citizens of at least five years' residence in the municipality, must have no interest in national or municipal contracts or supplies, and must hold no other public office or commission. The council from among its members elects three *alcaldes*, fixing the order of precedence among the three; also a secretary and treasurer.



PALACE OF CONGRESS, SANTIAGO, CHILE, ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL PUBLIC EDIFICES NOTED FOR THEIR IMPOSING ARCHITECTURE.

The powers and jurisdiction of the council are of the fullest. The entire government of the city is in its hands subject only to the constitution and the organic act of December, 1891.

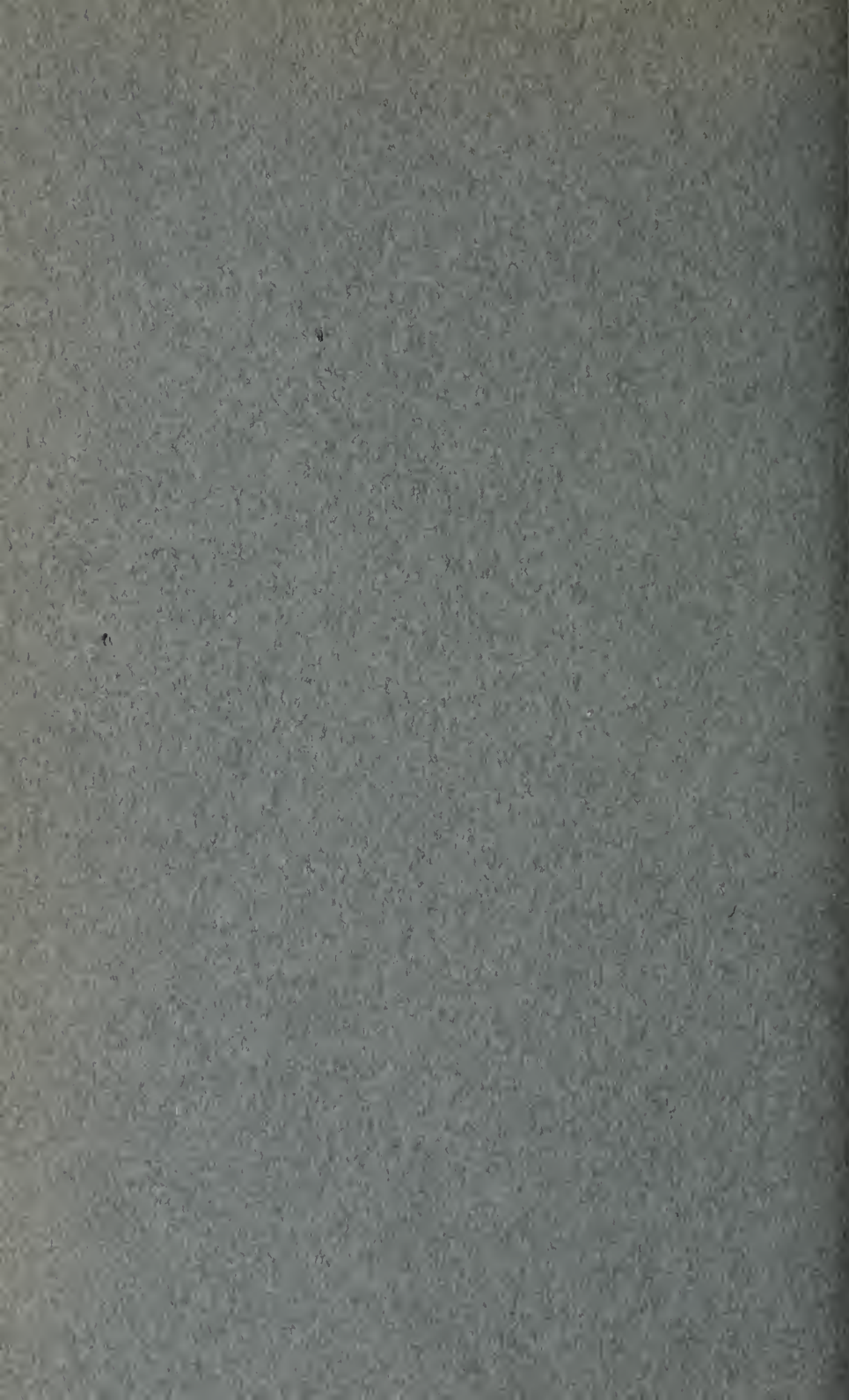
The municipal revenues are derived from a personal tax levied for school purposes, a personal-property tax, a tax on sale of liquors and tobacco, a license tax on industries and professions, revenues derived from city property, and an annual grant from Congress.











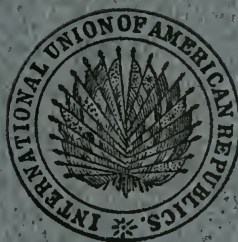
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MUNICIPAL ORGANIZATIONS IN LATIN AMERICA  
HAVANA, CUBA

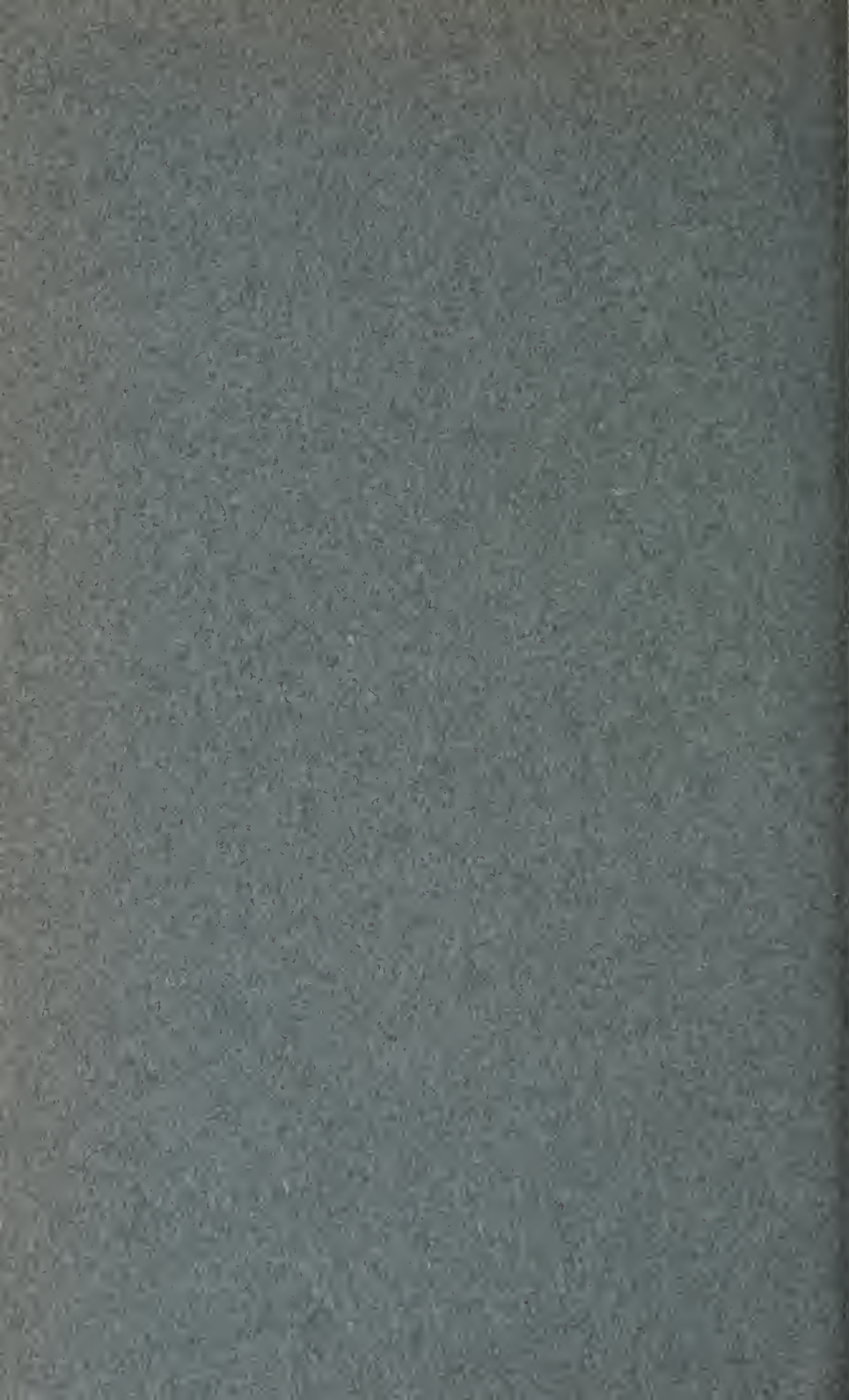
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(Reprint of an article from the Monthly Bulletin of the International  
Bureau of American Republics, April, 1909)



WASHINGTON, D. C.  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE  
1909







INTERNATIONAL BUREAU OF AMERICAN REPUBLICS

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MUNICIPAL ORGANIZATIONS IN LATIN AMERICA

# HAVANA, CUBA

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# MUNICIPAL ORGANIZATION IN LATIN-AMERICAN CAPITALS

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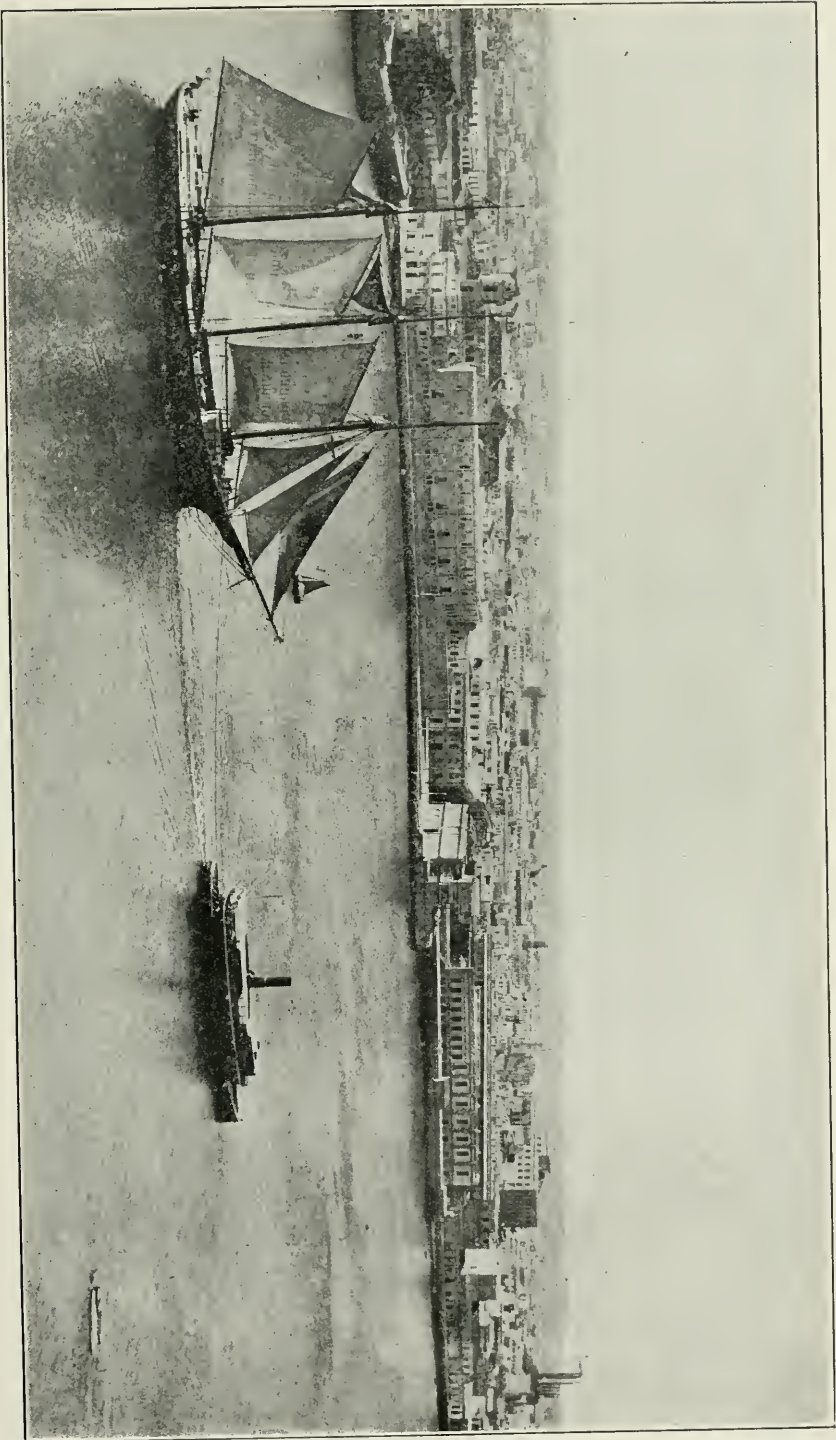
## HAVANA.

**H**AVANA, the "Key of the New World" (*Llave del Nuevo Mundo*), as reads the legend on its coat of arms, was founded on its present site by DIEGO VELASQUEZ in 1519. Better than any other of the Latin-American cities is it known to foreigners. Thousands, not only citizens of the United States but Europeans, who know but little, if anything, of the capitals of the larger Republics of Brazil, Argentina, or Mexico, are familiar with this capital city of the Pearl of the Antilles.

They know the beauty of its situation, the quaintness and charm of its architecture, and the geniality of its welcome. As one approaches from the sea, where the deep blue of the Gulf changes to the pale green of the inshore waters, the city comes into view, lying like a great carpet of rich oriental colors fringed around by the mottled dark green of the hills behind, fading away to right and left into a lighter green and then into a blue.

The entrance to the harbor is a narrow cut of less than 400 yards in an almost straight shore line. The city, with its yellow and white houses with red-tiled roofs, lies to the right of the entrance. On the left and jutting out a little into the Gulf is the picturesque light-house and fortifications of the Moro. On the right, at the city's extreme point, is the fort of La Punta. The harbor within the entrance is a roughly shaped quadrangle over 2 miles wide. On the harbor front is La Fuerza, the old stronghold of the city.

The architecture of Havana is heavy and massive. Even to one accustomed to the Spanish-American type the houses of Havana seem remarkably solid and heavy. The building material is a peculiar loose-textured seashell conglomerate of a glaring white color called *cantera*. It is similar to the *coquina* of St. Augustine, in Florida, but heavier and more compact. It is hewn out with axes and sawed into great blocks. After exposure to the air it becomes harder. The walls in Havana are nearly always plastered or stuccoed, variously colored. The colors are yellow, white, light gray,



(Miller Photo.)

VIEW OF HAVANA AND THE WATER FRONT FROM CABANA FORTRESS.

Cabana Fortress is situated on a hill that rises almost perpendicularly to the height of 100 feet and commands a fine view of the city, harbor, and surrounding country.

grayish blue, and deep red. The surfaces are frequently very ornate with frescoing, moldings, and imitated jointings. In the older parts of the city are the projecting Moorish gratings covering the windows.

The President's palace, formerly the home of the governor-general, is one of the finest buildings in the city. It was built in 1834 and occupies an entire block on the Plaza de Armas and near the harbor front. The palace contains the mayor's office and the hall of the city council and other offices of the city government, as well as the residence apartments of the President.

The cathedral, a block away from the palace, is one of the show buildings of Havana. It was built in 1704 and occupies the site of an older church. Other of the more important churches are San Au-

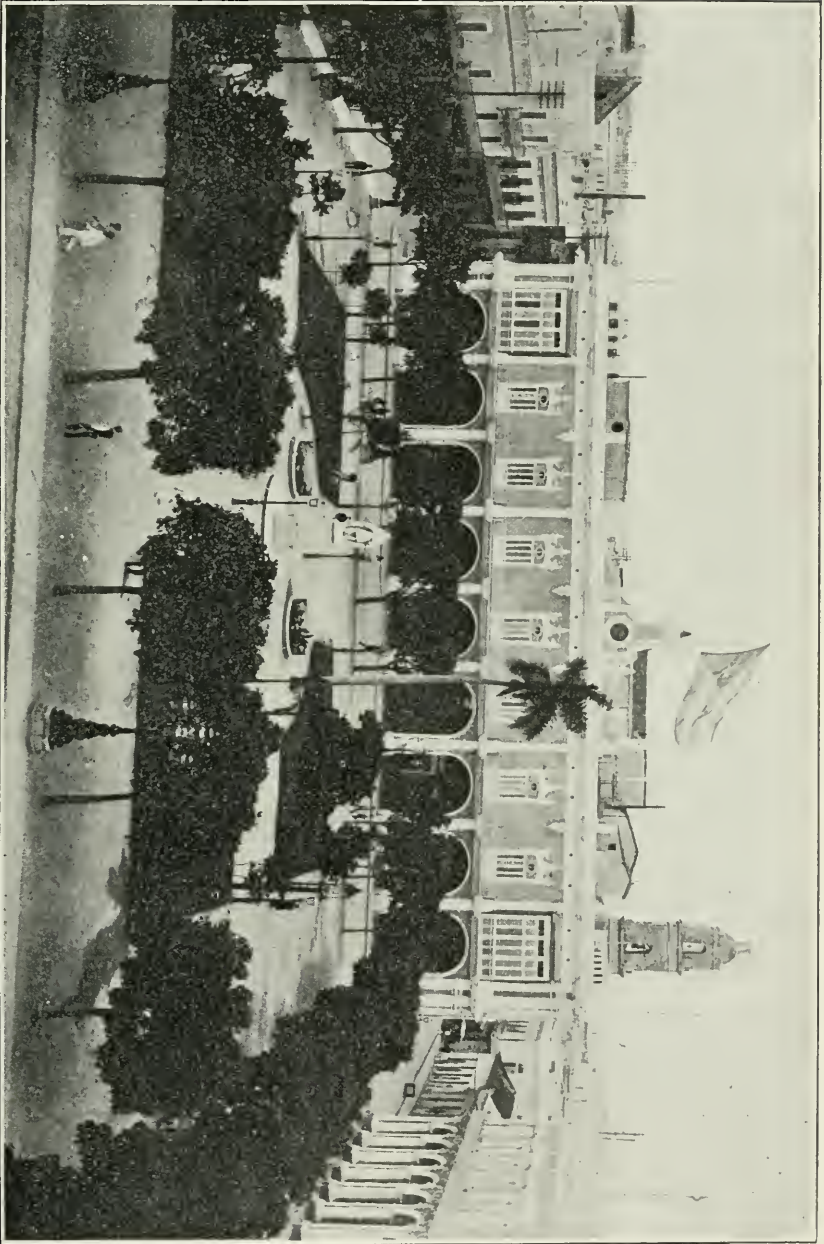


THE NEW PRODUCE EXCHANGE BUILDING IN THE CITY OF HAVANA—IT COST \$600,000 GOLD AND WAS OPENED IN MARCH, 1909.

gustin, built in 1608, and now the oldest church in the city. Santa Catalina, built in 1698, and Santo Domingo, formerly a monastery of the dominican fathers. La Merced, the largest, wealthiest, and most aristocratic church, was built in 1746 and rebuilt in 1792. Its interior is richly decorated. El Templete, the memorial chapel, built on the spot, under a ceiba tree, where the first mass was said by the priests accompanying Diego de Valasquez in 1519, was dedicated in 1828.

The most interesting points in Havana are the parks and paseos. The three principal parks are: Columbus Park, now an attractive pleasure place, with fountains playing among tropical plants and flowers; La India Park, containing the famous statue of the Indian





THE PRESIDENT'S PALACE, HAVANA.

The President's Palace, formerly the palace of the Governor-General, was built in 1834, and is one of the finest edifices of the Cuban capital. The main entrance, facing the Plaza de Armas, is of richly carved marble, and in the beautiful interior garden or court stands a famous statue of Columbus. This building has been the scene of many stirring events in the national life.

woman after which the park is named, and Central Park, surrounded by clubs and hotels, the place of concerts and the center of Havana's social life.

The first comprehensive municipal law in Cuba was the royal decree of July 27, 1859.

Municipalities under the operation of this law were governed by a board of aldermen, presided over by a president who, in Havana, was generally the civil governor of the province. Theoretically the board was autocratic in character, but the real power rested with the president. The board, elected by popular suffrage of all quali-



(Miller photo.)

RED OR THRONE ROOM OF THE PALACE, HAVANA.

This is one of the three rooms which comprise the State reception rooms, and Señora Gomez, the President's wife, utilizes it in receiving her guests. Among the crimson upholstered chairs in the room is one which is surmounted by a gilt crown. It was formerly the throne chair, and stood on a dais in this room. Back of the throne room is the Palace chapel.

fied voters, was, in effect, a council of advisers to the president, registering as ordinances such laws as he, acting under the Governor-General of Cuba, thought proper to enact. Differing with the theory in vogue in the United States, that legislative and executive functions ought to be exercised by different instrumentalities, in Cuba these functions were joined in the same body. The board, and that was to say its president, was both legislature and executive of the city.

Subsequent modifications of the law, until recently, did not change this essential feature thereof.





(Miller Photo.)

#### INTERIOR OF THE COLUMBUS CATHEDRAL, HAVANA.

The Cathedral has long been popularly known as the Columbus Cathedral, but the name is "Cathedral of the Virgin Mary of the Immaculate Conception," and it was erected on the site of another church by the Jesuits in 1704. The interior walls are finished in dark marbles, the columns of highly polished mahogany, with gilt-bronze capitals, the choir stalls of mahogany, beautifully carved. The high altar is of Carrara marble. The walls and ceiling contain many beautiful paintings, and the Cathedral is said to contain a small painting by Murillo, representing the Pope and the Cardinals celebrating mass preparatory to the sailing of Columbus.

By the royal decree of November 25, 1863, the superior civil government of Havana was created. In effect the decree was an amplification of the law of 1859. The decree of January 30, 1866, changed certain functions of the board and regulated the position of the civil governor in his double capacity of governor of the province and president of the board.

The Constitution of Spain, dated July 2, 1876, was not fully proclaimed in Cuba until April 7, 1881, but the organic municipal law of Spain was extended to the island by royal decree of October 2, 1877. Some modifications in the Spanish law were made as applicable especially to Cuba. These modifications referred to the number of



(Miller photo.)

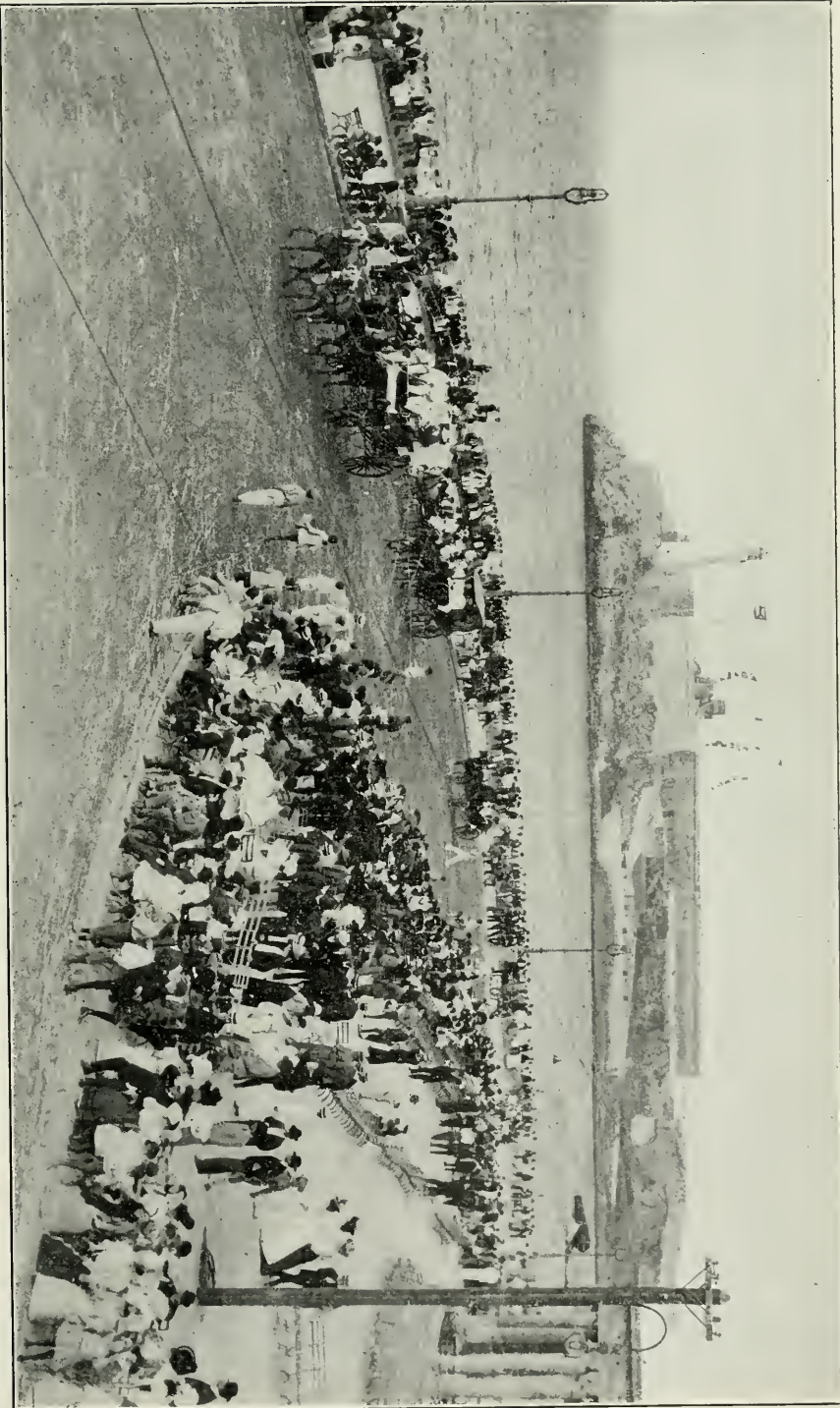
#### LETTER CARRIERS IN HAVANA.

The mail service in Cuba is conducted by the Department of Communications, which also has under its supervision the telegraph system of the Government. There is free delivery of mail in the larger cities. The Department also conducts a parcels-post system for the carrying of small packages through the mails.

aldermen of each board and to the powers of the Governor-General in appointing mayors. Under it each mayor was appointed by the Governor-General from three nominees presented by the board; although the Governor-General might, if he saw fit, disregard the list furnished by the board. Assistant mayors were appointed in the same manner, except that the appointee must be a member of the board.

The reform law of March 15, 1895, proclaimed on the 23d of that month, was a more or less substantial gain for the democratic idea, although the essential structure of Spanish municipal organization and government was not changed thereby. By virtue of this law





(Miller Photo.)

**THE MALECON, HAVANA, DURING THE CARNIVAL SEASON.**

The malecon is a massive sea wall overlooking the harbor of Havana and Morro Castle. In the park to the rear is a music pavilion, in the Ionic style, of great architectural beauty. During the carnival festivities the walks and driveways are thronged with merry-makers, and the houses in the vicinity are crowded with spectators.

each board of aldermen elected one of its members as mayor. The Governor-General might, after a hearing, remove the mayor and make a new appointment, but the new mayor could be chosen only from among the members of the board. In addition to their functions as executive officers of the boards the mayors were representatives and delegates of the Governor-General.

The Governor-General had always possessed the power to stay any ordinance of the board, in effect to veto it. By the terms of the reform law this power was limited. If there were charges of corruption in the passage of the ordinance, the Governor-General laid the matter before the criminal court. If, however, the contention was that the board had exceeded its powers or had infringed the organic law, the matter was for the consideration of the provincial governor and assembly. In the latter case, provincial governors might themselves take the initiative for the stay of an ordinance claimed to be *ultra vires*.

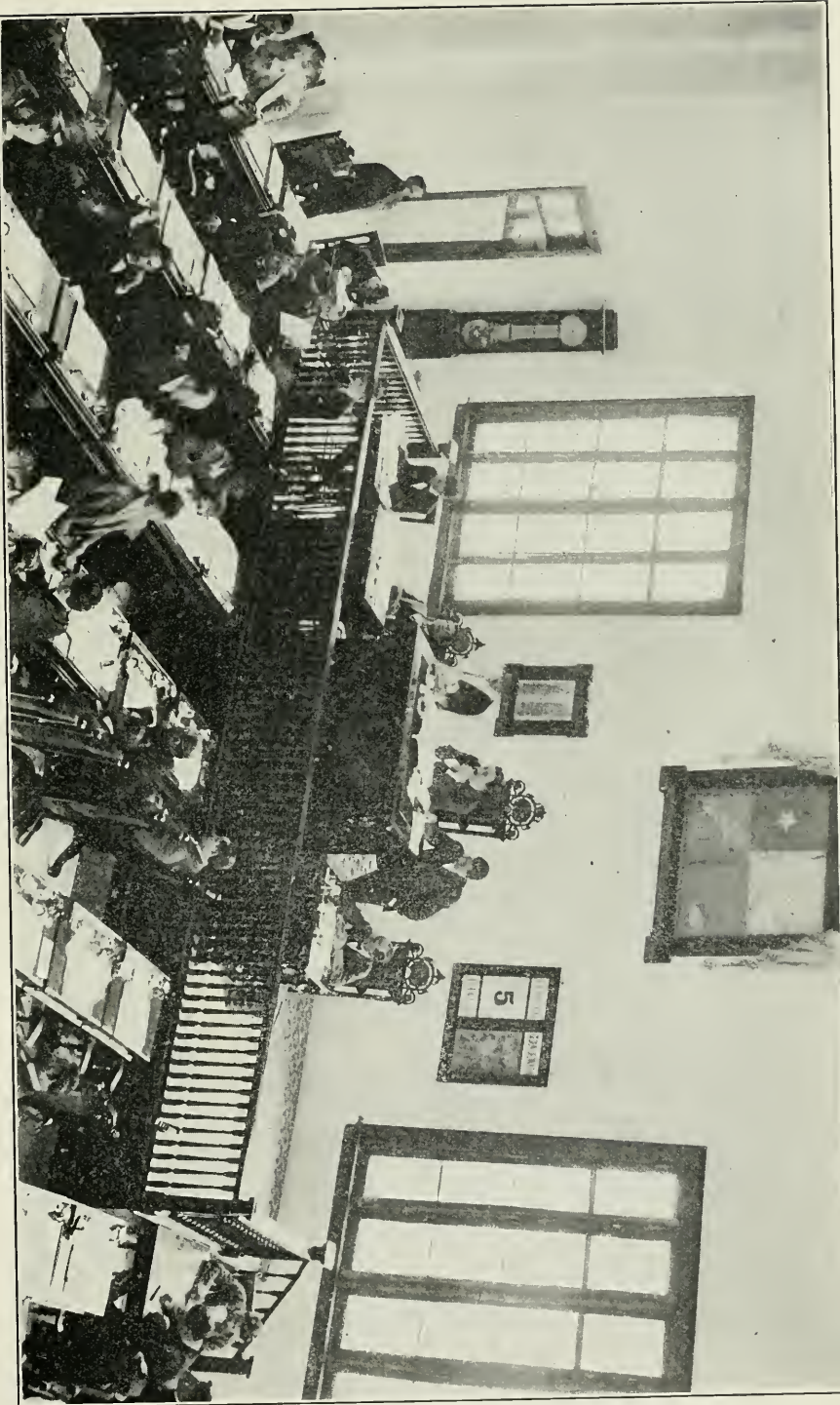
In matters of revenue and taxation an appeal lay from the action of the municipal board to the provincial assembly, and a final appeal for the assembly to the council of administration presided over by the Governor-General. This council consisted of 30 members, one half of whom were elected.

Throughout the whole period of Cuba's colonial history the real government of the municipalities of the island, not only on the administrative side but also on the deliberative or legislative side, was in the hands of the Governor-General of Cuba, acting through agencies directly responsible to him and dependent on him.

The present constitution of the Republic of Cuba of February 21, 1901, fundamentally changes the underlying theory of municipal government in the island and approaches somewhat the practice in the United States. In particular, legislative and executive functions are separated. The former are exercised by municipal councils elected by direct vote of all qualified voters, and the latter by mayors, or as they are called in Spanish-speaking countries *alcaldes*, elected in the same manner as the councils. By the provisions of the constitution (articles 103 to 113) the municipal council has legislative control of all matters relating exclusively to the municipal district. It prepares budgets of expenses and provides the revenues to meet the same. It contracts loans and votes the necessary revenues. It appoints and removes municipal employees. The *alcalde* has the right of veto as to the resolutions of the council, but the resolution, after deliberation thereon, may be passed over the *alcalde's* veto and become effective by a two-thirds vote of the council.

Resolutions of municipal councils may be suspended by the *alcalde*, the provincial governor, or the President of the Republic whenever,





(Miller Photo.)

**THE CUBAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN SESSION AT HAVANA.**

The view shows the Lower House in session February 5, 1909. The sessions are now held in a temporary building, but a new Hall of Representatives has been planned. Congressmen must be Cuban citizens, not under 25 years of age, and a representative is chosen for every 25,000 inhabitants of fraction thereof.

in their judgment, these are contrary to the constitution, treaties, or the general law. The right to take cognizance and pass upon claims arising out of such suspensions is reserved to the courts.

Alcaldes have general administrative powers and appoint and remove the employees of their own office.

The present organic municipal law, enacted in pursuance of the constitution was decreed on May 19, 1908, to go into effect upon the taking of office by the alcaldes and councilmen elected under the electoral law of April 1, 1908. The law is the work of a special commission appointed to draft the same, composed of Messrs. E. H. CROWDER, RAFAEL MONTORO, FELIPE G. SARRAÍN, JUAN GUALBERTO GÓMEZ, BLANTON WINSHIP, MIGUEL F. VIONDI, F. CARRERA JÚSTIZ, M. M. CORONADO, MARIO G. KOHLY, OTTO SCHOENRICH, ERASMO REGÜEIFEROS, and ALFREDO ZAYAS.

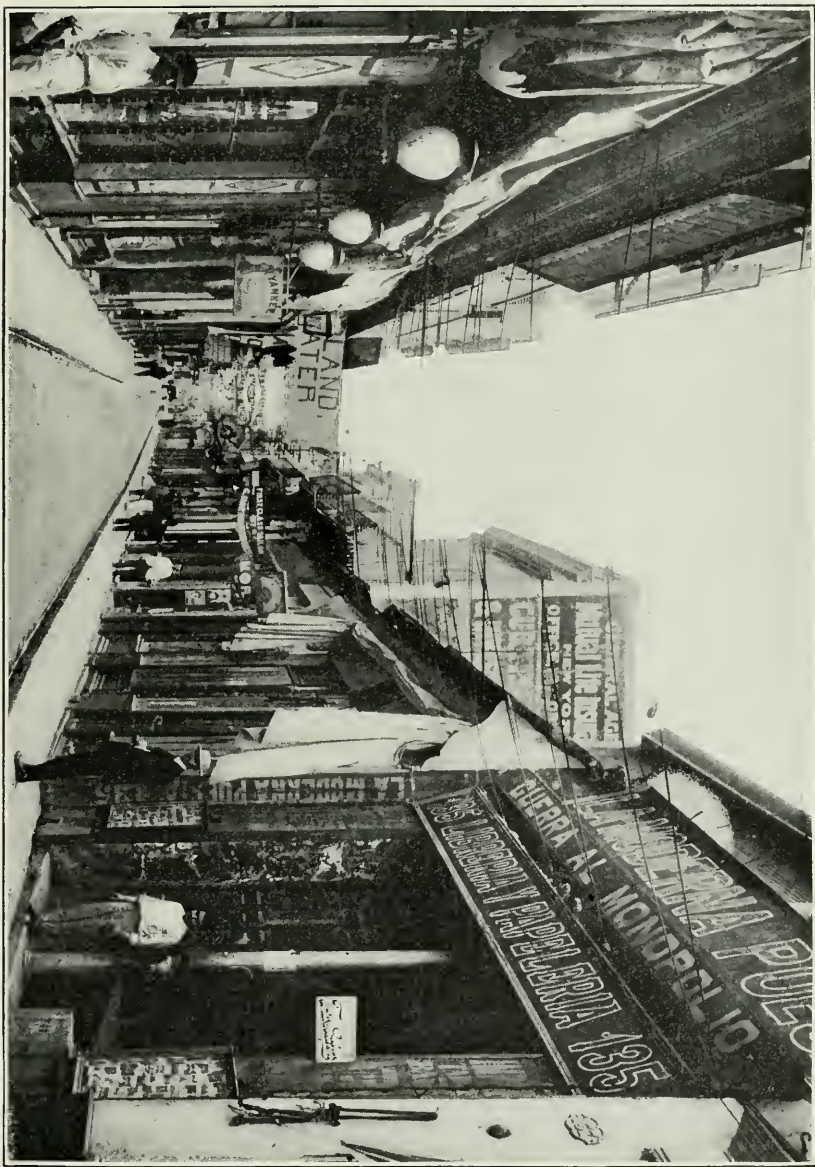
This commission was appointed on December 24, 1906, and its report embodying the first draft of the law was published on January 27, 1908, and distributed to all officials, political parties, newspapers, and private persons requesting the same, inviting them within thirty days to submit any criticisms and objections to the draft that they might deem proper. These criticisms and objections were considered by the commission and a final draft of the law was submitted on May 8, 1908. This draft was in the form as finally decreed eleven days later and first published in the *Gaceta Oficial* for May 29.

The new law is most comprehensive. It recognizes fully the constitutional division of legislative and executive powers, and also the dual capacity of municipal government, acting locally, and as auxiliary to the central power of the state; but it does not confuse these last two functions as was the case under the old colonial laws.

Municipalities are divided into three classes: First, those having a population of over 100,000 inhabitants; second, those having from 20,000 to 100,000; third, those having 20,000 or less.

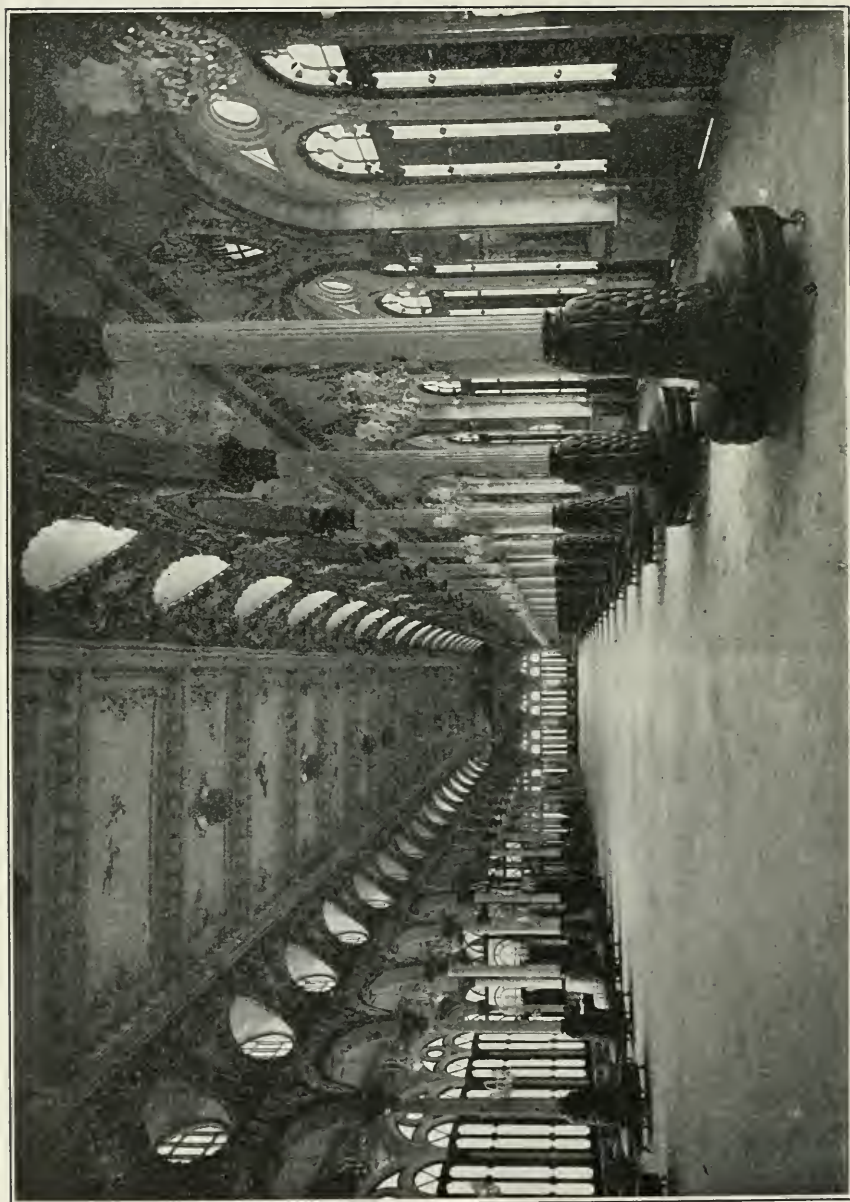
Havana, of course, is a city of the first class. Its municipal council consists of 27 members elected for four years, one-half alternately each two years. Councilmen serve without pay and can not be removed except after final judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction convicting them of some offense which by the law is a disqualification to holding public office. The officers of the council, a president, vice-president, and two secretaries, are chosen every two years following the municipal elections. Permanent and special committees are chosen from among the councilmen, and to any of these committees, except the finance committee and the tax committee, are added by vote of the council an equal number of private citizens, one-half of whom may be foreigners, as associate members having





OBISPO STREET, HAVANA.

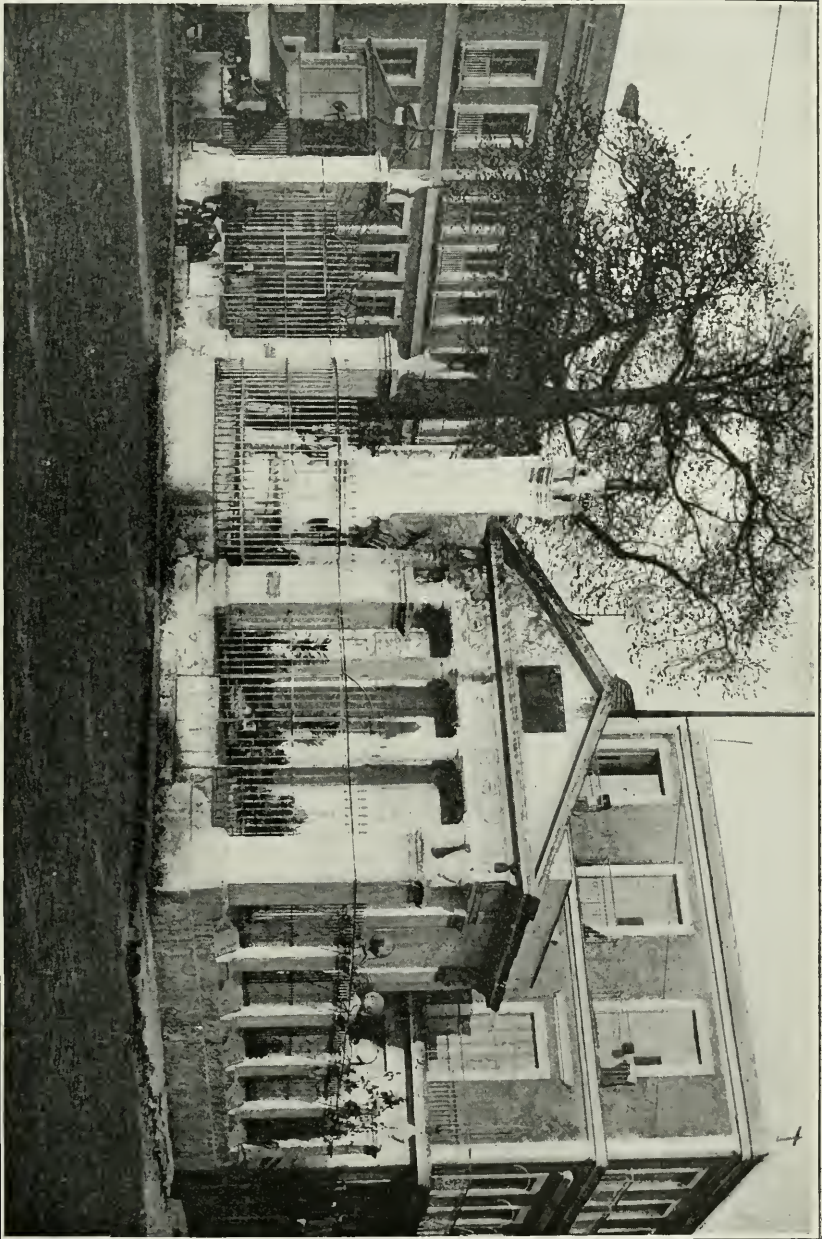
One of the principal streets of the older shopping districts of Havana, so narrow that wheeled vehicles are only allowed to pass in one direction. The buildings have heavy cornices and overhanging balconies. Signs are often suspended across the street, and during mid-day awnings are stretched from roof to roof, covering the street and producing the subdued light of a huge bazaar.



BALLROOM IN THE CLUBHOUSE OF THE BUSINESS CLERKS' ASSOCIATION, HAVANA.

The Association of Havana Business Clerks was founded in 1889 to care for the sick and provide instruction and recreation for its members, who now exceed 25,000 in number and whose handsome clubhouse is on the Prado north of Central Park. One flower ball and four carnival balls are given annually in the magnificent white marble clubhouse.





THE TEMPLETE (CHAPEL), HAVANA.

The chapel, which was dedicated with great pomp in 1828, in commemoration of the first mass said in Havana in 1519, contains three celebrated paintings by Escobar. The bust of Columbus in the court was Vanderlyn's model for the central figure in his painting of the "Landing of Columbus," which hangs in the Rotunda of the Capitol at Washington.

the same right to vote on committee matters as have the council members.

Mayors or alcaldes are elected for four years and are paid a salary. In the absence or disability of the mayor the president of the council acts in his stead. The mayor is the head of the civil administration of the city and is assisted in minor affairs by ward or barrio mayors elected by the municipal council. These barrio mayors are exceedingly important officials and perform functions elsewhere exercised by numerous bureaus and officials. In Havana they are the direct medium of communication between the inhabitants of their respective barrios and the higher authorities. They keep a register of licenses, enforce orders and regulations, and report violations of the same. They are charged with the care of streets and highways and of the poor. They issue permits for burial of paupers and tickets for medical attendance to the needy. They overlook all public services, reporting interruptions and accidents and also the enforcement of the truant laws for children of school age. On occasions they may even act as collectors of taxes.

An important provision of the new law is that limiting the proportion of expenditures for municipal government which may be allotted as salaries to the personnel of the administration. This limitation runs from 50 per cent in small towns, having a budget not exceeding \$10,000, down to 10 per cent where the budget is from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000, and 9 per cent where it is over \$1,000,000.

In no case can expenditures exceed revenues.

Loans can not be contracted except for public works or public services upon special resolution of the municipal council and approved by a popular vote of two-thirds of the voters.









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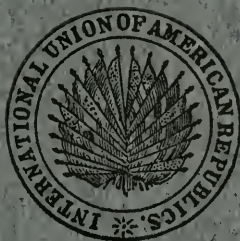
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MUNICIPAL ORGANIZATIONS IN LATIN AMERICA

MEXICO CITY

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(Reprint of an article from the Monthly Bulletin of the International  
Bureau of American Republics, February, 1909)



WASHINGTON, D. C.

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

1909





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# MUNICIPAL ORGANIZATION IN LATIN-AMERICAN CAPITALS " " " "

## THE CITY OF MEXICO.

**T**HE IDEA of a Federal District not included within the area or jurisdiction of any of the States forming the Union, which district is set apart as the seat of the National Government, is fundamental in each of the five Republics of North and South America whose form of government is that of a federal union of independent States.



THE NATIONAL PALACE, CITY OF MEXICO.

This turreted and bastioned edifice, 675 feet long, faces the east side of the main plaza. The far corner contains the executive offices. Besides housing other departmental offices, the building provides chambers for the National Congress and the Central Meteorological Observatory. The palace occupies the site of Cortez's residence during the early days of the conquest, and was commenced in 1692.

These five Republics, to give them their full designations, are the United States of America, the United Mexican States, the Argentine Nation, the United States of Brazil, and the United States of Venezuela. The capital cities of Washington, Mexico, Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, and Caracas are each located in a Federal District



under direct Federal control. They are all small in area, although the District of Columbia is by far the smallest of the five.

The Mexican Federal District has a population of 576,000, and lies to the southeast of the Valley of Mexico and is irregular in shape. At its greatest length it measures about 30 miles and at its greatest breadth about 25 miles. Its area is about 578 square miles (1,493.75 square kilometers).

This is more than eight times the size of the District of Columbia, less than half the size of Rhode Island, and one and three-fourths the size of greater New York.



A HOLIDAY PROCESSION IN MEXICO CITY.

The two great national holidays of Mexico are May 5 and September 16, the former commemorating the victory over the French at Puebla in 1862, and the latter the patriot uprising under Hidalgo in 1810, which resulted in the establishment of a Republic.

For purposes of administration the Mexican Federal District is divided into 13 municipalities—Mexico, Guadalupe Hidalgo, Atzacotzaleo, Tacuba, Tacubaya, Mixcoac, Cuajimalpa, San Angel, Cogoacan, Tlalpam, Xochimilco, Milpa Alta, and Ixtapalapa.

The first includes the City of Mexico and its immediate suburbs, and the remaining 12 the surrounding town, villages, and agricultural centers. About one-half of the population in the district outside of the City of Mexico is of Indian origin, and is engaged in agriculture.

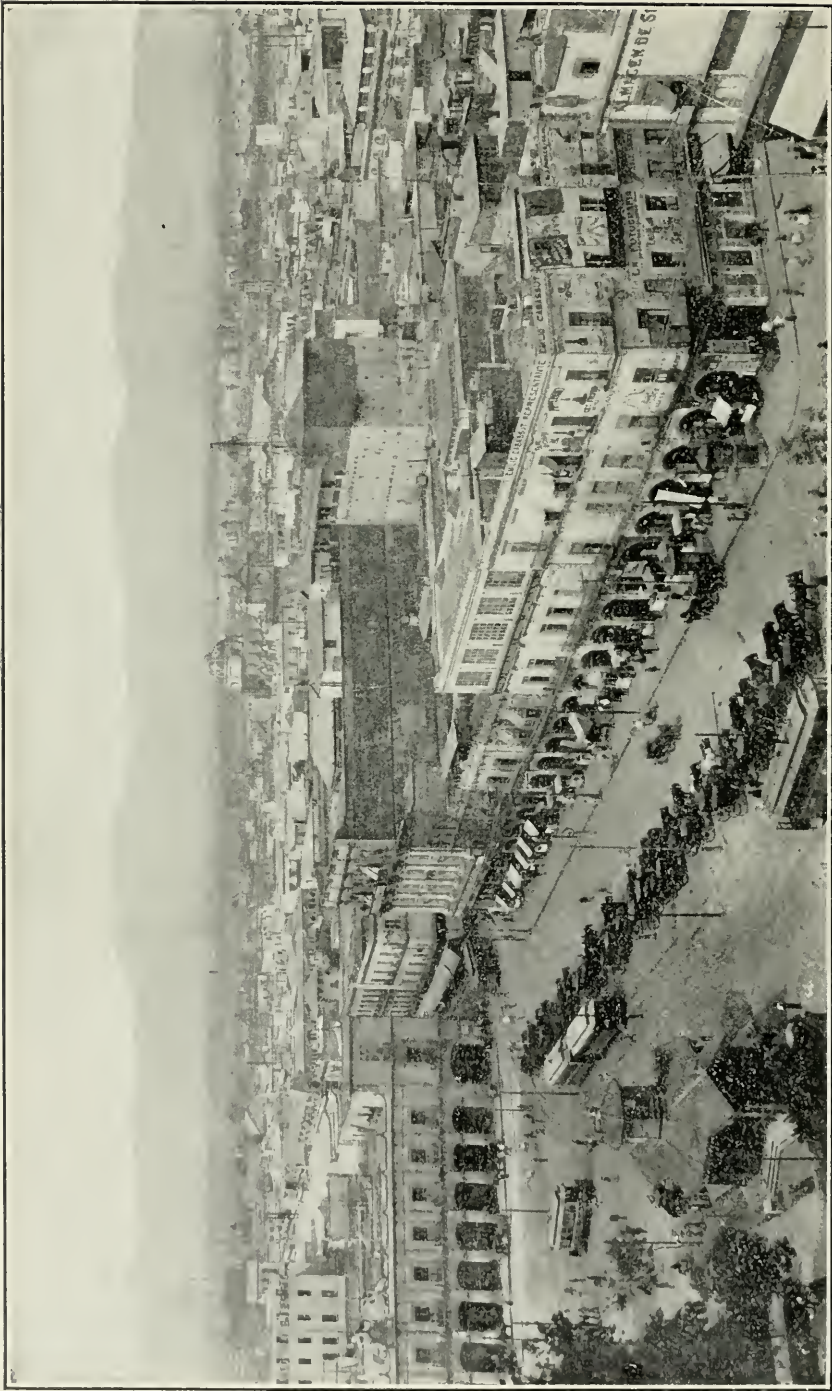


Photo by Waitt.—Mexico City.

CITY OF MEXICO LOOKING SOUTH FROM THE CATHEDRAL.

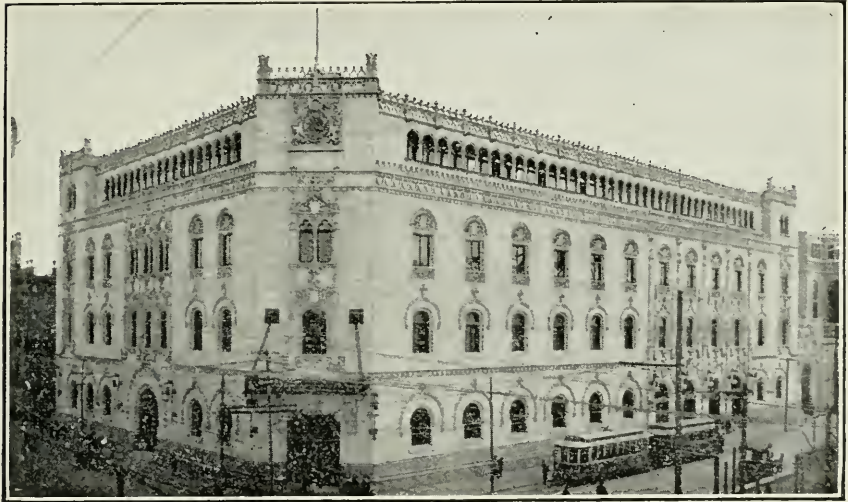
A superb view of the city and surrounding country is obtained from the cathedral towers, 294 feet above the street level. The block to the right is one of the busiest business sections. The square in the foreground is part of the main plaza and the starting point of all the street-car lines of the city. The large building to the left is the city hall, the lower floor of which is used for commercial purposes.

Prior to 1903 the form of government in the Federal District was somewhat similar to the territorial government in force in the District of Columbia about thirty-odd years ago.

The organic act for the government of the Federal District was approved March 26, 1903, and went into effect July 1 of the same year.

Under its provisions the immediate government of the District is in the hands of three officials who, together, compose the Superior Council of District Government. These officials are the Governor of the Federal District, the President of the Superior Health Board, and the Director-General of Public Works.

This form of government bears a marked resemblance to that at present in force in the District of Columbia. This resemblance is, however, more superficial than real.



(Photo by Waite, Mexico City.)

#### NEW POST-OFFICE, CITY OF MEXICO.

The cornerstone of this building was laid by President Diaz on September 14, 1902, and it was opened to the public in 1907. The cost was \$1,500,000 and it was erected in accordance with the plans of the Italian architect, Adamo Boari. The post-office occupies a central location, and covers an area of about 40,000 square feet.

In the District of Columbia the residents have no vote upon any question nor any voice whatever in the government, while in the Mexican Federal District they elect many of the minor officials and have considerable weight in the management of local affairs. In the District of Columbia the final determination of affairs of consequence is in the Senate and House Committees on the District, while in Mexico it is with the President of the Republic. The organic act, article 19, says:

The political government and municipal administrative of the District shall be in charge of the Executive of the Union, through three officials, who shall be dependent upon the Department of the Interior, etc.



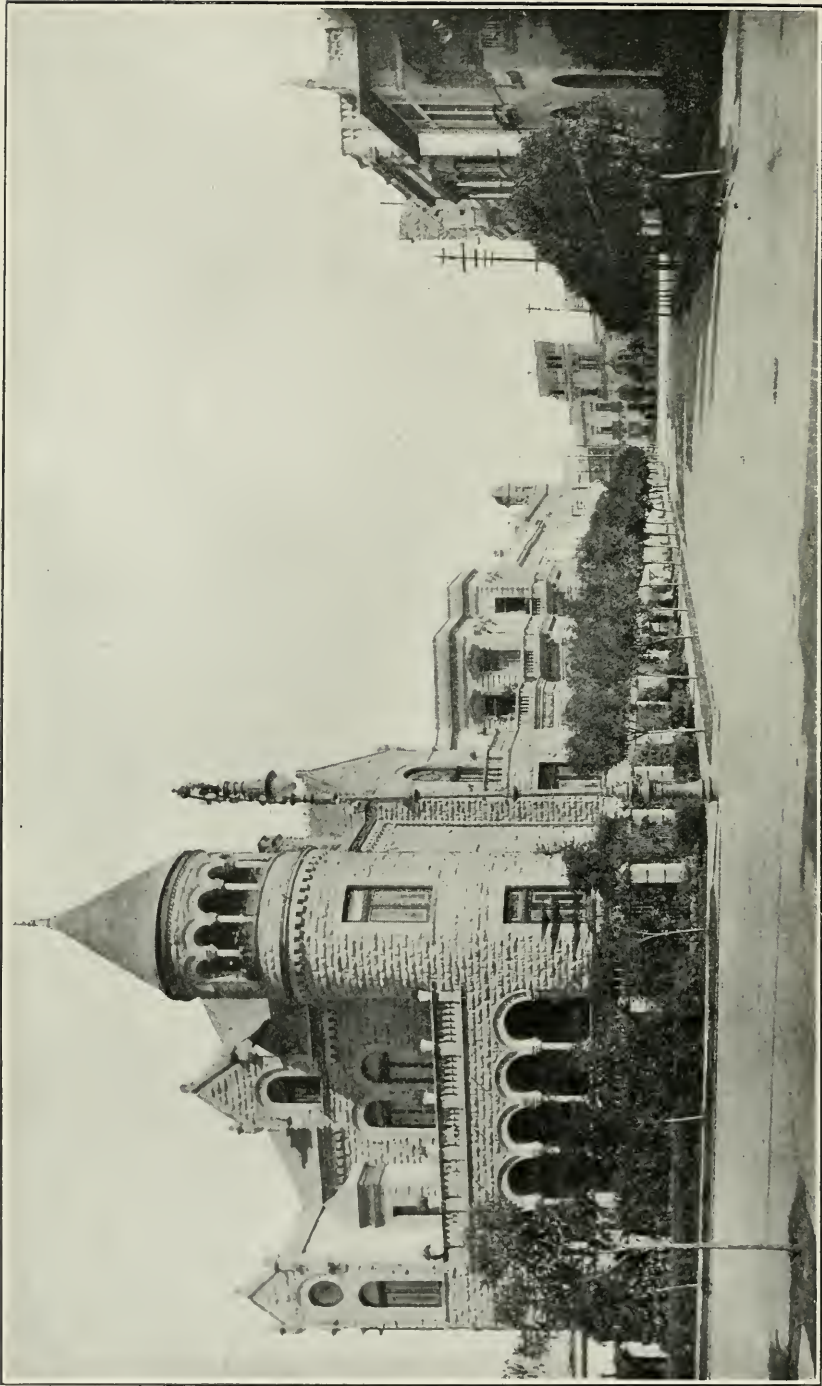


Photo by Waite—Mexico City.

VIEW OF COLONIA JUAREZ, CITY OF MEXICO.

The addition to the western part of the City of Mexico, known as "Colonia Juarez," is a fashionable residential section of the capital. It enjoys all modern improvements, such as asphalted streets, electric lights, and a sewerage system. The streets are lined with rows of shade trees.

In the District of Columbia all administration is by the three Commissioners acting jointly or by majority of the three. As a matter of convenience, the Commissioners do apportion the several departments among themselves, and one of these is especially appointed as an engineer in charge of streets, buildings, etc., yet in theory it is the board and not the individual member which acts. In Mexico each of the three officials is for the most part independent and alone responsible in his own department. This responsibility is limited by the right of the Superior Council—that is, of the three officials acting together—“to revise, confirming, reforming, or revoking the judgments of each one of the members of the Council, whenever these judgments are called in question.” The other duties of the Superior Council are advisory merely. It may propose changes in the District law or administration, rules for the government and organization of officers and public services. It may suggest improvements in works of public utility, such as water supply, drainage, sanitation, opening or widening streets, or the creation of special commissions to study and report upon such matters. The Council has a general supervision of the making of contracts for public works, but all such contracts must be submitted for final approval to the higher authority.



(Photo by Waite, Mexico City.)

LETTER CARRIER, MEXICO CITY.

In the fiscal year of 1908 over 195,000,000 pieces of mail were handled by the Mexican post-office department.

The Governor of the District, the Director-General of Public Works, and the president of the Superior Health Board is each the head of his own department and responsible for its work, but the subordinate officers and employees are appointed by the Chief Executive of the Republic. The three heads must each be a Mexican citizen, more than 25 years old, and not an ecclesiastic.

The Governor of the District is the chief political authority in the District. He makes public and enforces all laws, decrees, and rules emanating from higher authority. He has special charge of the police and fire department, imposition of penalties for violation of ordinances, penal establishment, civic festivities, public diversions, plays, sale of intoxicating liquors, hotels and restaurants, street cars and cabs, the civil register, and of the inspection of weights and measures.

The Director-General of Public Works has special charge of the water supply, streets and roads, parks, monuments, municipal lighting, drainage and street cleaning, public buildings not under direct Federal control, cemeteries, construction, repair and maintenance of slaughterhouses and markets, inspection of building operations, and of woods, lands, commons, and other communal property.

The president of the Superior Board of Health has charge of all sanitary works as provided by the sanitary code, and, in addition, of general sanitary inspection, especially of the hygienic and sanitary condition of slaughterhouses, markets, and cemeteries, and the introduction of meats from other sections.

The popular element in government is preserved in the Federal District through the preservation of the ayuntamientos or town councils. Each of the 13 municipalities into which the District is divided has its own ayuntamiento, composed of councilors elected by popular vote for four years. To be a councilor one must be a Mexican citizen, resident within the municipality, in full enjoyment of civil and political rights, more than 25 years of age, and not an ecclesiastic.

The ayuntamiento of the municipality of the city of Mexico is composed of 21 members, of Tacubaya 11, and of each of the other municipalities 7. Each ayuntamiento elects from among its members a president and a vice-president who hold office for two years.

The law requires that the ayuntamiento shall be consulted by the Ministry of the Interior, the Governor of the District, the director-general of public works, and the president of the health board, as the case may be, upon matters of general importance in the municipality, such as water supply and distribution, local sanitary work, establishment of new settlements, exploitation or sale of woods, lands, and commons. They must also be consulted as to contracts for the execution of any of these works and as to all other contracts of a municipal



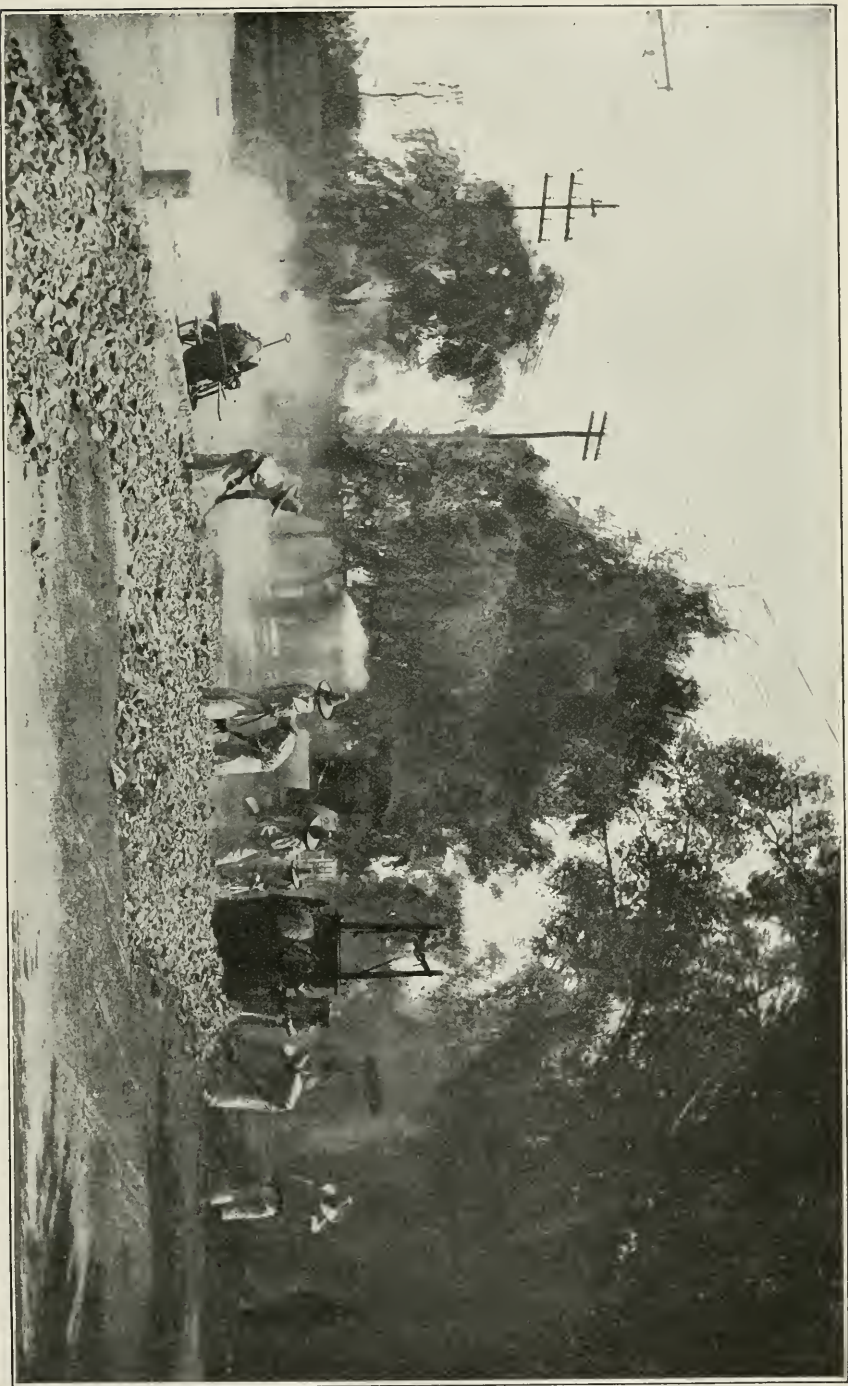


Photo by Waite—Mexico City.

**STREET IMPROVEMENT, MEXICO CITY.**

The city contains many miles of well-paved and asphalted streets. During recent years great improvements have also been made on the suburban roads, many of which are shaded by handsome old trees draped with garlands of Spanish moss.

character having a duration of five years or more, or which call for a total expenditure of 100,000 *pesos* (\$50,000) or more, or an annual expenditure of 25,000 *pesos* (\$12,500).

In all these matters the *ayuntamientos* have by a two-thirds vote the right of veto. The effect of this veto is to suspend for four months the project or contract in question. At the end of the four months if the *ayuntamiento* still opposes the proposition by a vote of three-fourths of its members, the matter is submitted to the President of the Republic for final solution.



(Photo by Waite, Mexico City.)

#### YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION, MEXICO CITY.

The building of this world-wide association is located on Puente de Alvarado street, near the Central Railway Station, and is the property of the Mexican branch of the society. Throughout the Republic there are 6 organizations, with 4 paid secretaries and about 1,500 members. The association has railroad branches and educational departments for boys and men.

Mexico City has 353 public schools maintained at government expense and nearly 200 private institutions of learning. Of the former, 13 are professional and technical institutes.

The climate of Mexico is delightful. In summer the maximum temperature reached is not higher than 80° F. This occurs in April and May and from 2 to 4 o'clock in the afternoon. The mornings and evenings are cool, the thermometer sometimes falling to 50°. The coldest months are generally November and December, where for a few hours the thermometer may fall within five or six degrees of freezing. The mean temperature of the summer months is about 65°, and for the winter months 54°. The annual variations for the several seasons is comparatively small, but the daily variation is often considerable, the temperature rising or falling twenty or more degrees in a few hours.

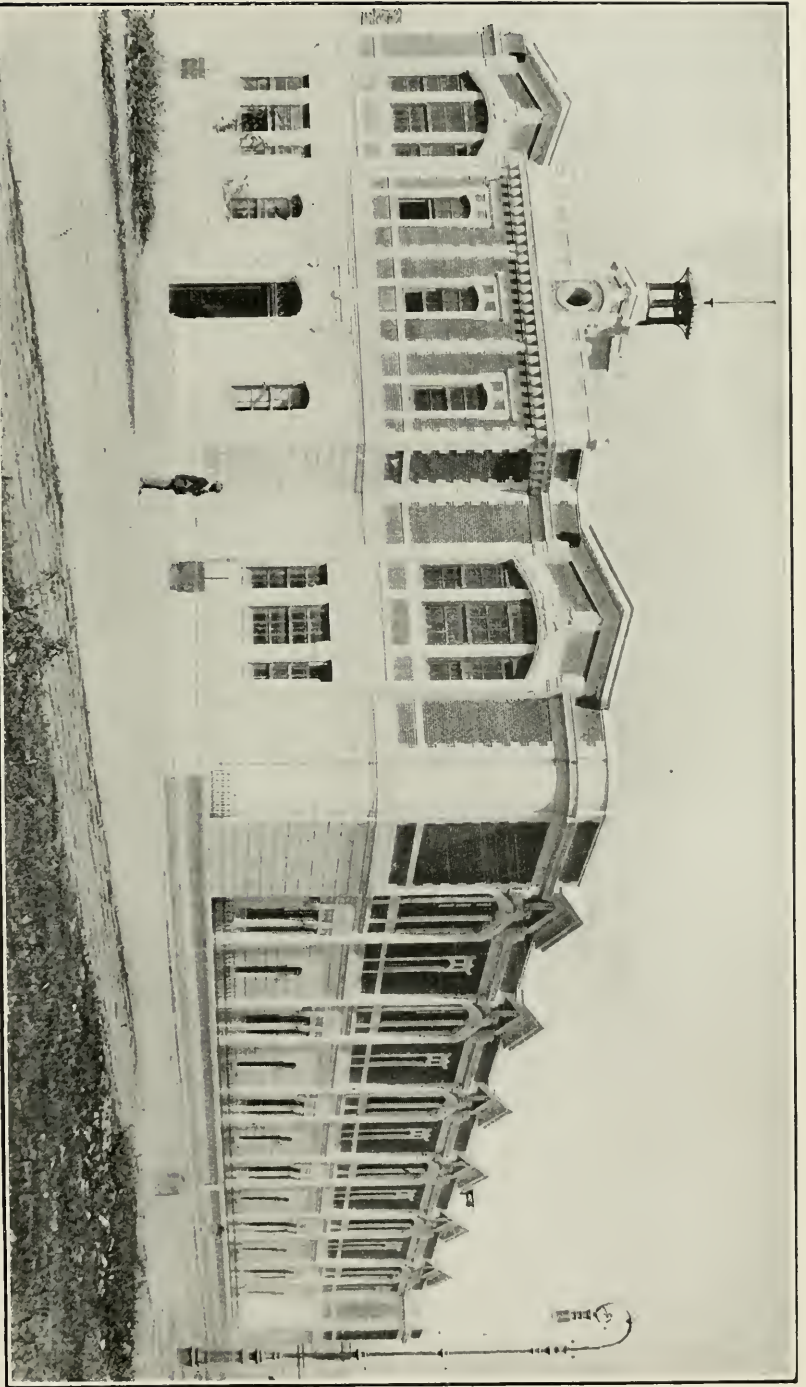


Photo by Waite—Mexico City.

PRIMARY SCHOOL BUILDING, MEXICO CITY.

Recently \$3,500,000 was set aside by the Mexican authorities for the construction of new school buildings. The Government is putting forth every possible effort to provide educational opportunities as the safeguards of the liberty of the Republic.



The Mexican capital is becoming one of the most beautiful cities of the world, but it is a city in process of being made over. Unlike Buenos Aires or Chicago, which are new, Mexico City is very old. The work of improvement is the work of tearing down and rebuilding. This work goes on constantly and always to fit in with a general large plan, which looks to the whole and not to the particular.

An English writer, Mr. PERCY MARTIN, says of it :

The aspect of the city to-day is suggestive of one-half being pulled down while the other half is being built up. But there can be no question as to what it will be when the destruction stage has ceased and the construction is complete. Mexico will be a beautiful city in every respect—worthy of the superb climate with which the country is blessed, worthy of the enterprising Government which is directing affairs, and with plenty to show for the millions which are being expended upon its adornment. Already sufficient has been effected to evince that Mexico City will be more beautiful than Paris, more admirably planned than Vienna, and a distinct improvement upon Berlin.

Situated in a valley, with mountains on all sides, the location is ideal. To the stranger the most beautiful construction in the City of Mexico is the Paseo de la Reforma, or the Paseo, as it is usually called. This is undoubtedly one of the handsomest driveways in the world, and in a few years will be incomparably finer than the Prater, Unter den Linden, the Champs Elysées, or the Nevsky Prospect, the better-known show ways of Vienna, Berlin, Paris, and St. Petersburg. It extends, over two and a half miles in length, from the center of the residential part of the city to the foot of Chapultepec.

The carriage way is broad, shaded by two rows of trees on each side, between which is a wide promenade. At intervals the Paseo expands into a *glorietta*, a small circular park 400 feet in diameter, around which are handsomely carved stone benches. In the center of the *glorietas* are well-kept and beautiful flower beds. In the first *glorietta* within the city stands the colossal equestrian statue of CHARLES IV of Spain, said to be the largest bronze in the world.

There are also colossal statues of Columbus and of Cuauhtemoc and Juarez. In fact, each *glorietta* will have several such statues of Mexican celebrities, which will be presented by the several Mexican States.

The statue of Charles IV was first placed in 1804 on its pedestal in the Plaza Mayor, where it remained until 1824, when it was removed to the patio of the university, whence it was moved to its present site. It is a solid bronze, 15 feet 9 inches high, weighing over 30 tons. The King is dressed in royal robes, wearing on his head a wreath of laurel and holding in his right hand the scepter. The horse is in the act of walking, the left fore foot and right hind foot being raised. The sculptor was MANUEL TOLSA.

The statue of Columbus was one of the first monuments erected on the continent he discovered, and one of the handsomest. He stands

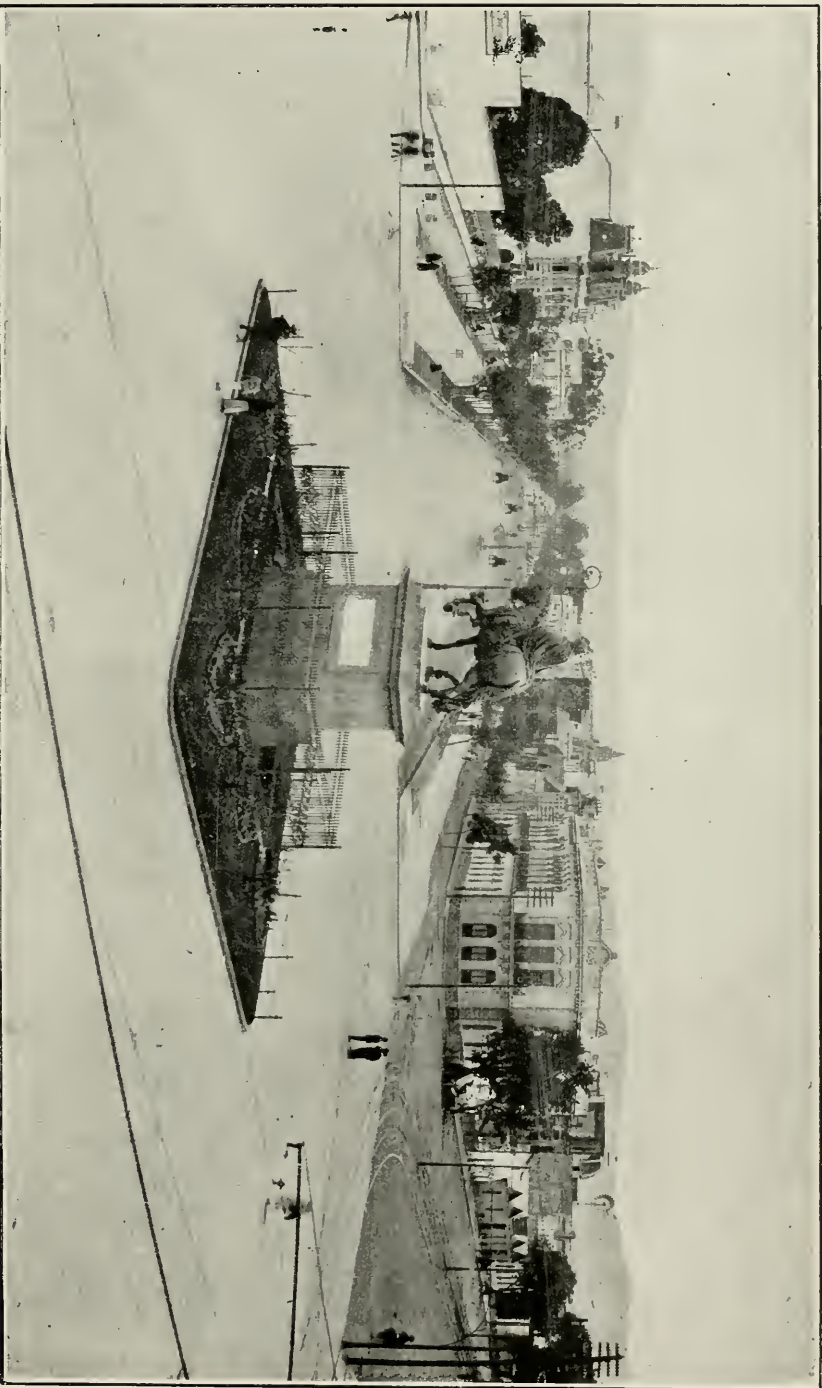


Photo by Waite—Mexico City.

**BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF THE PASEO DE LA REFORMA, CITY OF MEXICO.**

The notable equestrian statue of Charles IV in the foreground is the oldest in the city and faces the Paseo, which is 2 miles in length and leads to the gates of Chapultepec. Six circles, each 400 feet in diameter and surrounded by stone benches, adorn the avenue at appropriate distances. This boulevard was laid out in 1864 by Maximilian, and was completed in 1877. To the right of the statue is Bucareli avenue, opened in 1778.

drawing aside the veil which concealed the New World. The base is ornamented by basso-relievos picturing incidents in the life of the Great Admiral, and at the four corners stand life-size figures in bronze of Padre Marchena of La Rabida, Padre Fray, Diego Dehesa, Fray Pedro de Gante, and Fray Bartoleme de las Casas.

The statue of Cuauhtemoc represents the plumed and feathered warrior standing upright in the act of drawing an arrow from his quiver.



STATUE OF CUAUHEMOC, CITY OF MEXICO.

The beautiful statue of Cuauhtemoc, the last emperor of the Aztecs, was designed by Francisco Jimenez, a Mexican artist, and erected in the Paseo de la Reforma at a cost of \$40,000. On each anniversary of its dedication, August 21, celebrations are held at the base of the monument, addresses being made in the Aztec language. The bronze figure represents the well-poised body of the emperor in the act of throwing a spear, symbolic of his refusal of the terms of peace offered by Cortez.

The hill of Chapultepec overlooking the city is said to have been the site of the summer palace of the Montezumas. After the conquest the Spanish viceroys built on the crest of Chapultepec the great castle which stands to this day and is the summer residence of President Diaz. Surrounding the castle are magnificent cypress woods, the finest grove on the continent. The view from the terrace of the castle is one of the world's famous sights.

Another of the famous sights of Mexico is the Alameda, a park of about 40 acres extent. This was in old times an Indian market and also a place of execution. It was at one time inclosed by a high



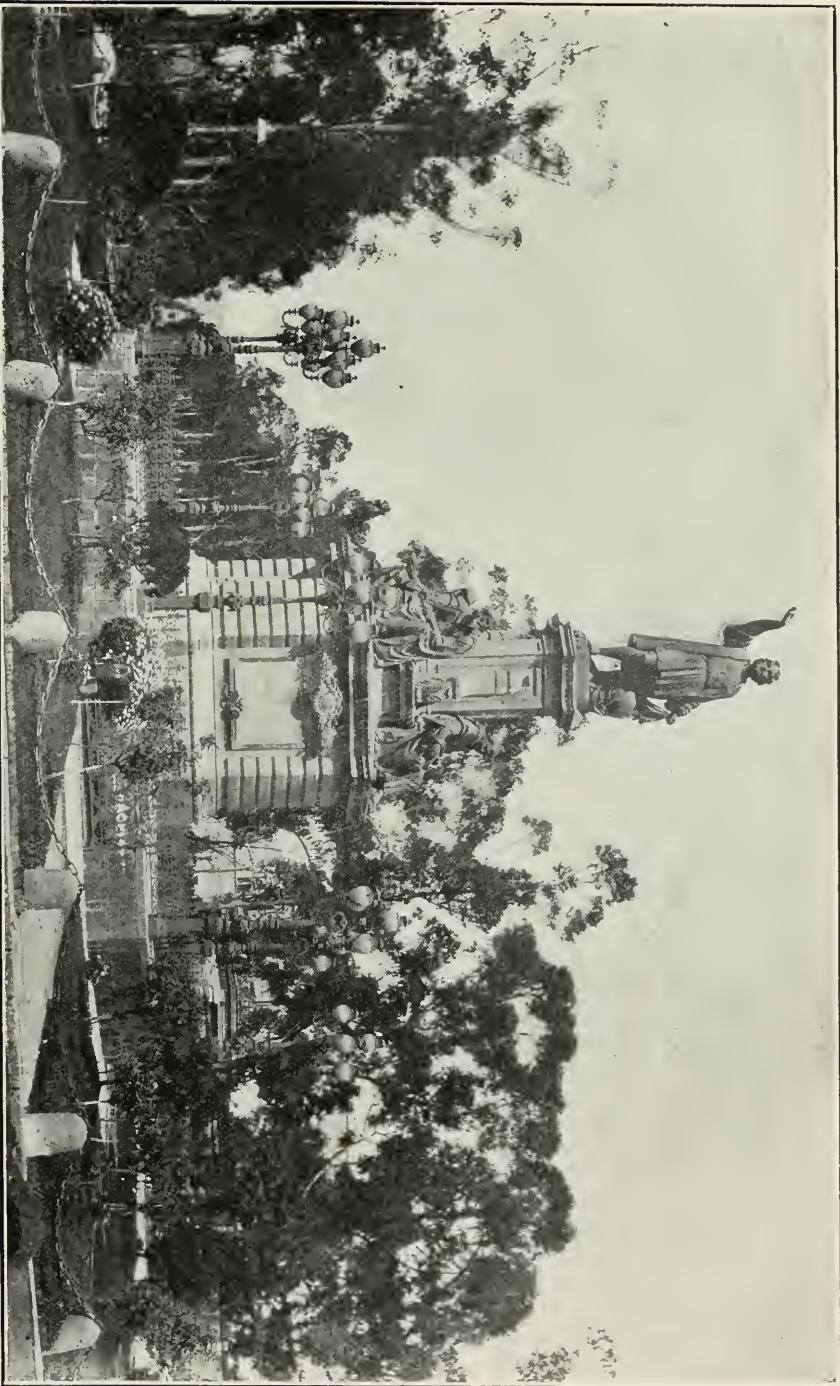


Photo by Waite—Mexico City.

STATUE OF CULUMBUS, PASEO DE LA REFORMA, CITY OF MEXICO.

This statue is the work of Enrique Carlos Cordier, a French artist, and was presented to the city by Don Antonio Escandon, a Mexican philanthropist, the unveiling ceremonies being held in August, 1877. It represents Columbus in the act of drawing away the veil which hides the New World.



BAS-RELIEF ON ONE SIDE OF THE STATUE OF CUAUHEMOC.

The scene depicts the torturing of the Aztec emperor, Cuauhtemoc, and the cacique of Tacuba, by roasting their feet over a slow fire, in order to force them to reveal to the Spanish conquerors the hiding place of their treasures. The cacique could not conceal his suffering, at which the emperor rebuked him with the words: "Do you think, then, that I am taking my pleasure in my bath?"



PALACE OF THE PRESIDENT, CHAPULTEPEC, MEXICO.

This historic structure is situated on the eastern summit of Chapultepec (hill of the grasshoppers) overlooking the valley with the city in the foreground and the snow-capped volcanoes of Popocatepetl and Ixtaccihuatl in the rear. A fine roadway ascends the hill to the castle, which is also reached by an elevator. At the foot of the hill is a large spring that forms part of the water supply of the capital. In the surrounding park is a fine grove of ancient moss-covered cypress trees, one of which is 45 feet in circumference and 200 feet high.



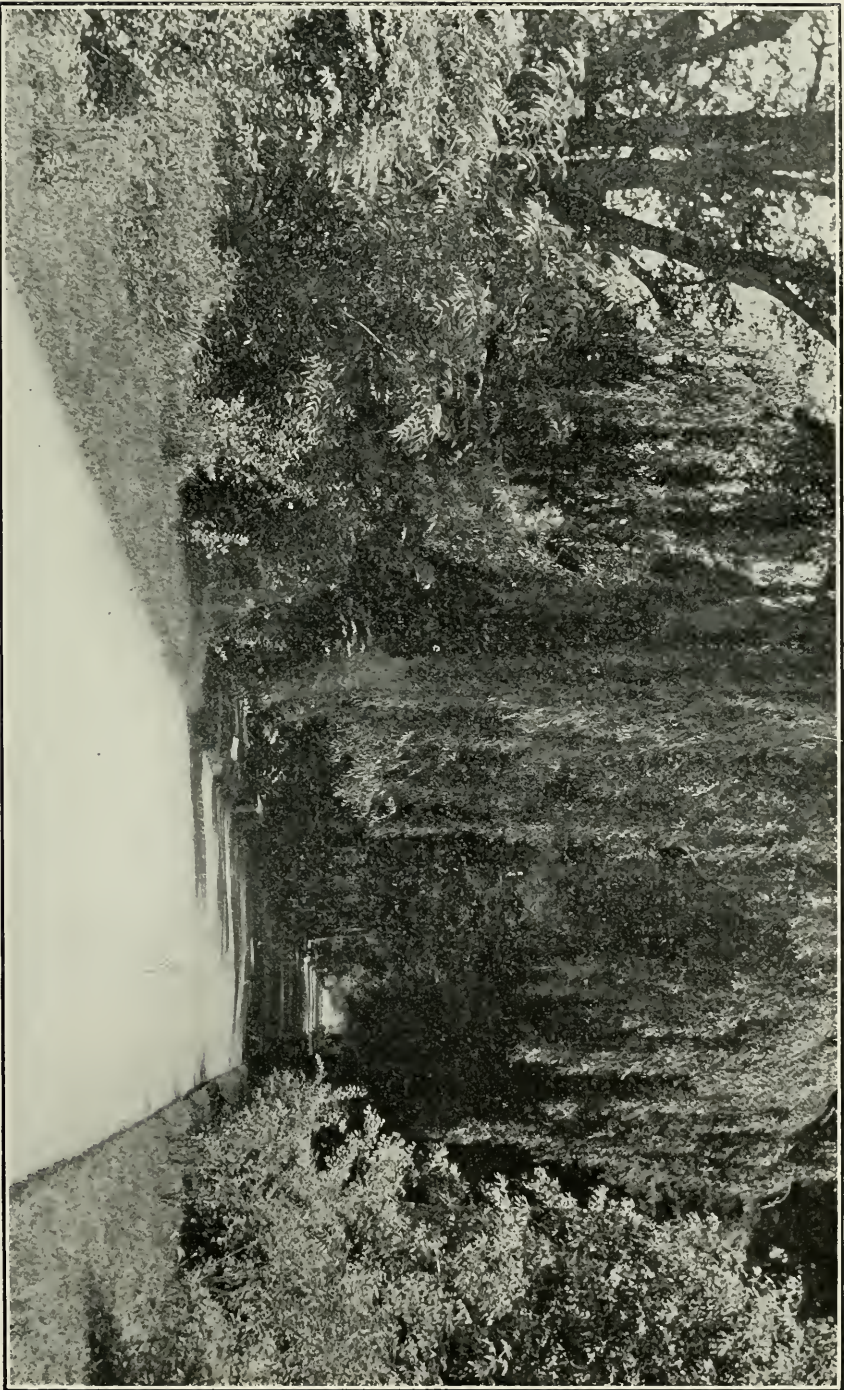


Photo by Waite—Mexico City.

AN AVENUE IN CHAPULTEPEC PARK, CITY OF MEXICO.



wooden fence, and later by a stone wall with a moat around the wall. About twenty years ago the fences and walls were removed and the moat filled up. Since then the whole park has been made over, until it is now a most beautiful place of promenades. Here are held the *fiestas* on national holidays.

One of the most important, if not the most important, municipal work undertaken in the city of Mexico has been the drainage of the valley. This is a very old project and antedates the conquest in the colonial period. Work was at times pushed and then abandoned, and



LA VIGA CANAL, FEDERAL DISTRICT, MEXICO.

This is an artificial and navigable waterway, through which the waters of Xochimilco and Chalco lakes discharge into the lower level of Lake Texcoco. It is the route over which a large traffic in vegetable and other products is carried on between the capital and the outlying country. On Sunday afternoons and holidays the canal is alive with pleasure seekers and tourists.

so it was during the earlier years of the Republic. Decisive action dates from the formation of the Drainage Board in 1886, since which the work has been continuously and intelligently carried on to a final completion a few years ago. It comprehends an outlet from the low-lying valley to carry off the surplus water fall and drainage for which nature has not provided. The Valley of Mexico is a great undrained bowl set round with a rim of high hills and mountains. This rim has been tunneled and into the tunnel are carried the waters of the Vega Canal which is the final receptacle of the surplus water and city

drainage. The drainage itself is by means of an underground system similar to that of most other modern cities. It differs in this that the natural fall being insufficient to carry off the matter or to flush the pipes by gravity, an artificial method of accomplishing these ends was necessary. This is done through a supplemental water supply derived from the springs surrounding the valley, which is gathered and pumped under pressure through the drain pipes, through the larger collecting channels into the canal, and through the tunnel out of the valley. The work begun by the Board in 1886 was continued by a Commission appointed in 1895 and by the Board of Directors appointed in 1896.



A SCENE ON THE VIGA CANAL, FEDERAL DISTRICT, MEXICO.

The Viga Canal is 16 miles long and 30 feet wide, with an average depth of 6 feet. It has continued in use for more than two centuries. Many historic and picturesque places border its banks and make it one of the most interesting spots in the valley of Mexico.

The great cathedral of Mexico, the most pretentious church on the continent, stands first in architectural interest among the many fine buildings which have given to the capital the name of "City of Palaces."

The corner stone was laid in 1573 upon the site occupied by the great Aztec temple which was destroyed by Cortez in 1521. A small church was two years later erected upon the site, which in turn gave place fifty years later to the foundations of the present cathedral. The walls were completed in 1615, the roof in 1623, when the first mass

was said. In 1667 the church was dedicated, and in 1791 the towers were finished, and the building was finally completed about twenty years later.

The cathedral occupies an extent of 374 feet by 187 feet. The architecture is composite. The facade on the side from which the



(Photo by Waite, Mexico City.)

#### MOUNTED POLICE, MEXICO CITY.

The mounted police force, which patrols the outlying districts and suburbs of the capital, consists of highly disciplined and well-trained horsemen.

towers rise is divided by massive buttresses into three divisions representing the three Greek orders. The lower is Doric, next above, a somewhat exaggerated Ionic, and the upper part Corinthian. The material is a gray stone relieved by statues, friezes, bases, and capitals of white marble, which gives an agreeable color effect. The



towers are 204 feet in height. Two massive buttresses joined together but hidden by a wall form the first body of each tower, which rises to the height of the side entrances. From thence the second body springs, ornamented with columns and semicircular openings. The third body, lighter in effect and angular, is encircled by a balustrade. The two lower bodies are Doric and the upper Ionic. Each tower is capped by a bell-shaped dome. In the west tower hangs the great bell, Saint Mary of Guadalupe, which is 18 feet high. Above the whole rises the great and imposing dome surmounted by a slender and graceful lantern.



MOORISH PAVILION, CITY OF MEXICO.

The "Pabellon Moriseo," or Moorish Building, which stands on the southern side of the Alameda, facing Avenida Juarez, is constructed of iron and glass, and was formerly the Mexican Building at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. For twenty-five years it was the office of the National Lottery, but is now used as a café.

The interior forms a Latin cross. Five naves, converging to the center, represent various styles of vaulting; cloistered and groined in the fourteen chapels, seven on each side; spherical and supported by curvilinear triangles in the processional naves; and semicircular with lanterns in the central and cross naves. The three last naves are supported by twenty handsome Doric half columns. The whole interior is a marvel of carving and gilding.

The National Palace, occupying an entire square, fronting nearly 700 feet on the Plaza Mayor, is the Capitol of the Republic. It contains the President's offices and those of several executive departments, and is the meeting place of the Senate. The House of Deputies occupies what was formerly the Yturbe Theater, but which has been

remodeled for legislative purposes. The Palace occupies the side of the House of Cortez, which was destroyed in 1692. The present building was begun soon after, and has been added to from time to time. The last additions are quite recent. The outside is uninteresting, presenting long white walls which suggest no idea of the interior magnificence of the halls and salons.

The Palace has three entrances from the Plaza Mayor. The most noted room is the Hall of the Ambassadors, an apartment of regal dimensions and adornment. The Hall of the Constitution is also a magnificent room. Over the main gateway of the Palace hangs the Liberty Bell of Mexico, rung by Hidalgo to call the people to arms in 1810.

The National Library was formerly the old Church of St. Augustin, and is one of the fine buildings of the city. It has gardens on each side and contains 200,000 volumes, of which many are very old and valuable.

The National Museum is one of the world's great museums. Its collection of ancient Mexican art and other relics is known to all scholars.

The School of Fine Arts is a fine gallery of painting and sculpture.

Among the most noted churches are San Pablo, Santa Vera Cruz, Santa María Martír, Santa Ana, Santa Cruz Acaltan, San Miguel, San José, Santo Domingo, San Augustin, San Diego, and Nuestra Señora de la Concepción.

Other fine buildings are the Mining Palace, the Post-Office building, Palace of Justice, and the Mint.















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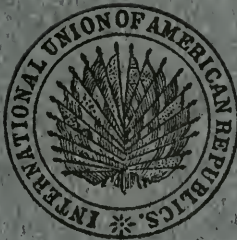
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MUNICIPAL ORGANIZATIONS IN LATIN AMERICA

LIMA, PERU

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(Reprint of an article from the Monthly Bulletin of the International  
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# MUNICIPAL ORGANIZATION IN LATIN-AMERICAN CAPITALS

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## LIMA.

**T**HE Constitution of Peru, in article 118, provides that :

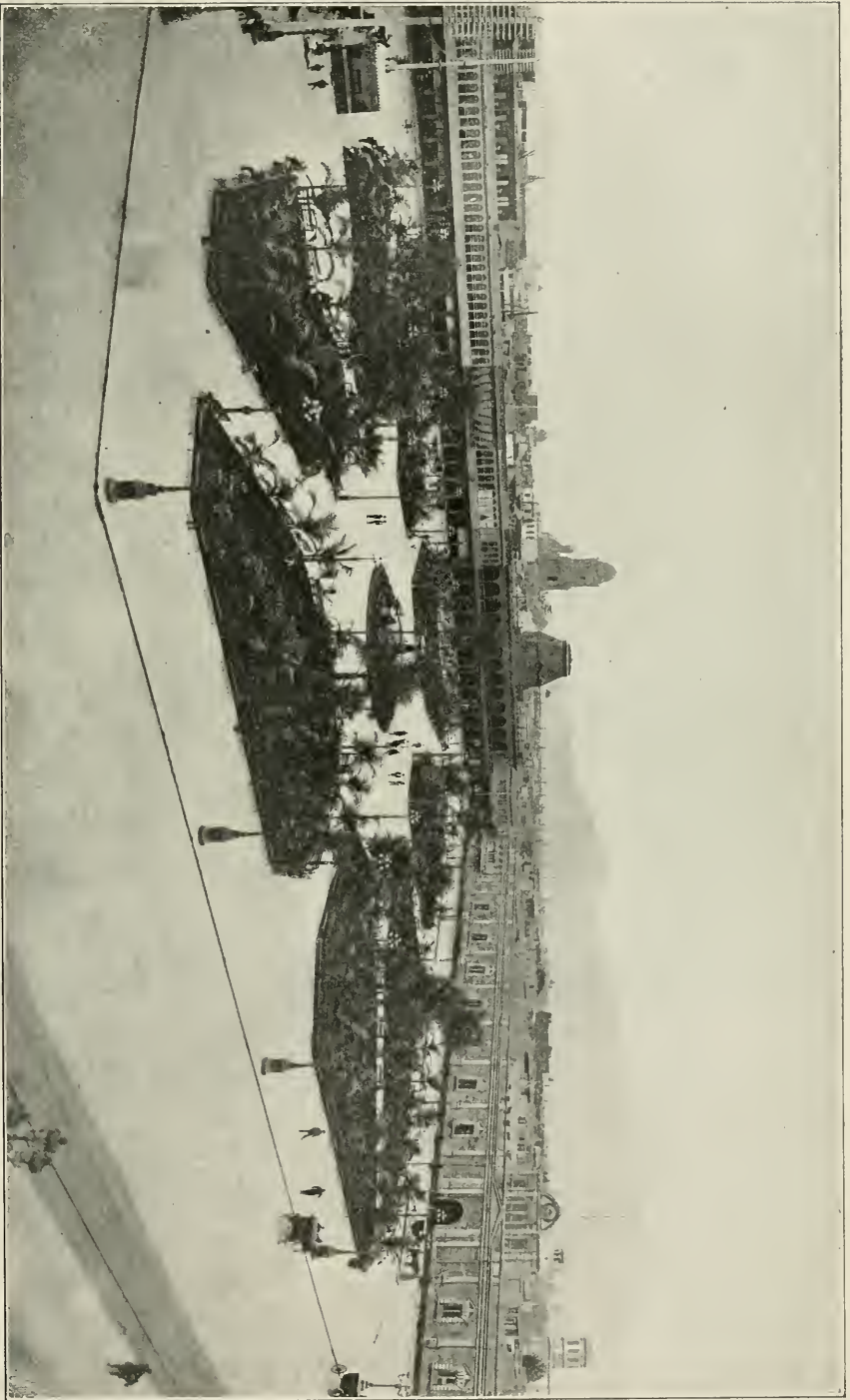
There shall be municipalities in such places as may be designated by law, and the law shall determine their functions, responsibility, the qualifications of the councilors, and the method of electing the same.

To a greater extent than many other Spanish-American capitals Lima is under the direct control of the national government of the Republic. There is a mayor and a municipal council of 50 members, but their functions are not very well defined and there has been a constant tendency in recent years to abridge the same.

The first municipal organization of Lima was established on January 30, 1535, by PIZARRO, and the first *alcaldes* were NICHOLAS DE RIVERA, the elder, and JUAN TELLO.

The city was called the "City of the Sovereigns," and bore on its coat of arms the initials of QUEEN JUANA, and KING CARLOS. With but little change in form the government of the city established by PIZARRO continued during all the colonial period, and after independence in 1821, down to 1857. In this last year was reorganized the old *Cabildo*, or corporation of Lima, into the municipality of Lima.

In theory the municipality is the administrator of all communal affairs, and has in charge all work of public health and hygiene. The water supply, opening and closing streets, and maintaining the same,



PRINCIPAL SQUARE, LIMA, PERU.

This historic plaza covers an area of about 41 acres. The Government Palace occupies the north side and the Town Hall with its handsome arcades the west side of the square. The Cathedral, in which the remains of Pizarro the Conqueror lie, faces the eastern side of this beautiful plaza of the "City of the Kings."

together with the laying of sidewalks and pavements, are also under its jurisdiction. Street railways and street lighting, parks, markets, public carriages, and livery stables are subject to municipal control. The mayor and city council of Lima are charged with the ordinary duties and given the ordinary jurisdiction of city governments elsewhere, but in practice the government of the city is to a large extent dictated by the President of the Republic and the national legislature. The public school system has quite recently been entirely divorced from municipal control in any form.



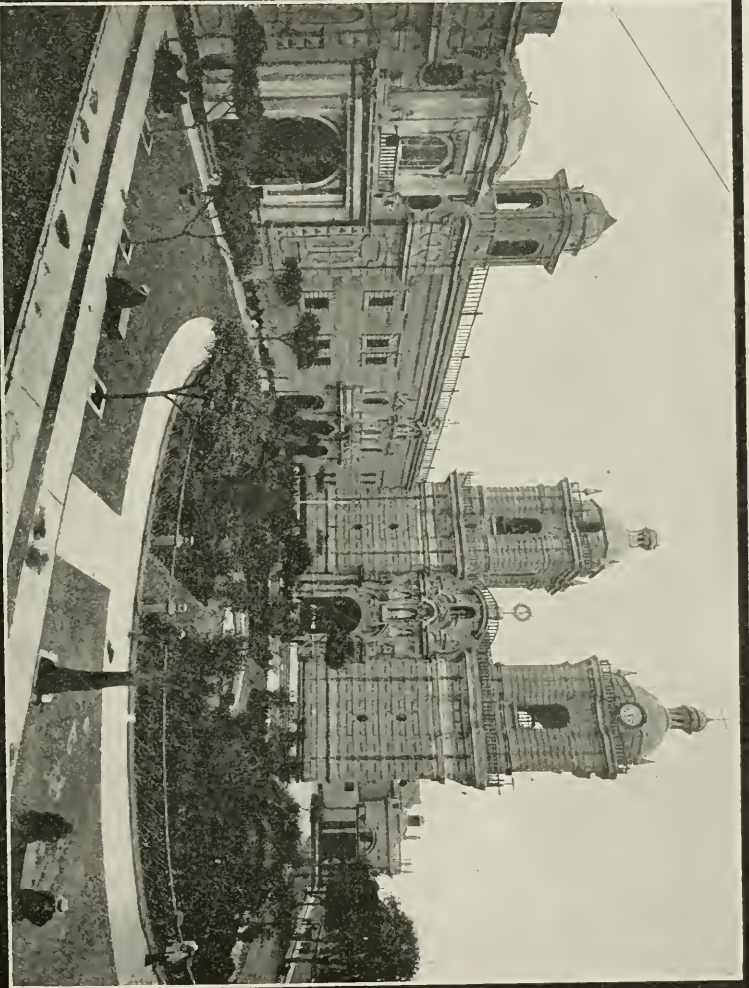
HEALTH INSTITUTE, LIMA, PERU.

The public-health service is thoroughly organized in Peru. Vaccination is compulsory and gratis. The Government also distributes gratuitously the principal preventive and curative serums and makes large appropriations in support of this project.

A foreigner resident in Lima, or in any other Peruvian city, may vote in municipal elections and may be chosen a member of the municipal council, on condition that he be twenty-one years of age and exercise some trade or profession or be possessed of landed property. This right under the law exists without having acquired naturalization. Naturalized foreigners, who may become such after two years' residence, vote and hold municipal office without condition.

Lima has a population of 150,000 inhabitants and is about 8 miles inland from Callao, the port with which it is connected by two lines of railway.





CHURCH OF SAN FRANCISCO, LIMA, PERU.  
More than \$2,000,000 were spent in the construction of this church and convent. The walls are decorated with multicolored tiles, and the interior carvings are works of great merit.

The city is in shape a triangle, and for the most part lies on the left bank of the River Rimac—in summer a considerable stream, swift and turbulent, but in winter dwindling to a comparatively insignificant rivulet. A smaller part of the city lies on the other side of



POST-OFFICE AND TELEGRAPH BUILDING, LIMA, PERU.

Notwithstanding the great physical obstacles encountered, Peru's postal and telegraph services have reached a high state of efficiency. The former has been more than self-sustaining for several years, and there are 550 post-offices in the Republic. The telegraph system has a mileage of 3,200, all but 20 per cent of which is operated by the Government.

the Rimac. Above the city rises the hill San Cristobal, most advanced of the bulwarks of the Andes.

Lima lies in the dry zone of Peru, but due to its slightly elevated situation and the Pacific winds visitors do not find its temperature



OLD TORRE-TAGLE HOUSE, LIMA.

This house was built in the days of the Viceroy.



oppressive. From colonial times it has been supplied with water from several large springs about 3 or 4 miles away from the center of the city and on the left bank of the river. Soon after the founding of the city the Spaniards built a large reservoir called the Atarjea, into which the water from these springs flows, from whence, by means of conduits of lime and rubble, it was conveyed to the public drinking fountains and private houses of the city. The distributing conduits were defended by very thick walls, and the larger canals proceeding from the Atarjea were veritable subterranean aqueducts. In 1855, the old system, which had become inadequate for the purposes of the city, was enlarged.

The city is divided into 5 quarters comprising 10 districts, again divided into 46 barrios.

Four of the districts are merely outlying parishes, so in reality the city proper is composed of the following 6 districts: San Sebastian, San Marcelo, El Sagrario, Los Huerfanos, Santa Ana, and San Lazaro. Until 1870, it was surrounded by an adobe wall, built in 1685 as a defense against the Indians.

The streets in general cross at right angles and are not very broad, from 30 to 35 feet being the usual width. Formerly there was a surface sewerage system, but this is being done away with. In the new paving of the city streets the sewer conduits are all underground.

The center of Lima is the Plaza Mayor, one of the most beautiful squares in all the South American capitals. Fronting the square on the east is the Cathedral, the ground for which was laid out by PIZARRO on the very day on which the site of the city was chosen. The construction of the Cathedral occupied ninety years. The work was delayed by changes in plans made by successive viceroys and by earthquakes, but it was finally finished and consecrated on October 1, 1625. In 1746 the Cathedral and practically the whole city was destroyed by the great earthquake of that year. Twelve years afterwards the new cathedral, occupying the same spot, was completed.

The building is one of the most imposing of all the American cathedrals. It has five aisles, with nine arches, and its two sides are formed of ten chapels, in one of which are deposited the remains of the conqueror, FRANCISCO PIZARRO. The high altar, separated from the remainder of the edifice, occupies the center of the chancel, and is surrounded by a beautiful set of stalls made of cedar and mahogany. In the church and in the vestry there are paintings of considerable merit, among these a MURILLO.

Fronting the west side of the Plaza Mayor is the municipal building, and on the north side is Government House, once the viceroy's palace. This edifice preserves to-day much of its primitive appear-

ance. It was partially destroyed by fire about twenty-five years ago, but the restoration of the burned portions has not materially changed its old aspect. It is the President's residence, and as such the center of political and social affairs in the city.

Lima is a city of churches and convents. By bull of POPE PAUL III, dated May 14, 1541, it was made an episcopal see, and its first bishop was FRAY GERONIMO DE LOAYZA. Four years later the see was made an archbishopric. The old parishes of the city correspond with the present municipal districts.

The church and convent of San Francisco cost more than \$2,000,000 in construction. The principal cloister preserves almost intact its ancient magnificence, when the viceroy's domain extended from Panama to Patagonia and Lima was his capital. The walls are decorated with beautiful, glazed tiles, and the carvings of the ceilings are most exquisite. The churches of the convents of Santo Domingo, La Merced, and San Agustín are also handsome edifices, as is also the new Jesuit church of Santo Toribio. Another Jesuit church, that of San Pedro, is one of the most ornate in the city. Besides these, other notable churches are those of San José, La Caridad, San Carlos, Cocharcas, Copacabana, Santo Tomas, Guadalupe, Belen, La Recoleta, El Sagrado Corazón, Santa Teresa, and the churches of the convents, of Buena Muerte and Los Descalzos. Nearly all of these edifices were built during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. In architecture they are of the Spanish Renaissance school, mixed with Moorish and Andalusian details.

The space formerly occupied by the old city wall, torn down in 1870, has been utilized in building several handsome boulevards; those of Bolognesi, Grau and other *paseos* form an almost uninterrupted driveway from the river and back again around the city. Another beautiful driveway is the avenue leading to the town of Magdalena, about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles away. This avenue is 125 feet wide, shaded with four rows of palms. The avenue of the Barefooted Friars (Los Descalzos), on the bank of the river, is a wide central public walk, adorned with 12 large statues representing the signs of the zodiac, the intermediary spaces containing urns, marble benches, trees, and plants. The avenue is about two-thirds of a mile long and begins at the foot of San Cristobal Hill. The Arco avenue is also a favorite passageway of the city. It extends along the river from the old stone bridge to the modern Balta bridge. The recently constructed Columbus avenue is about a third of a mile long and about 125 feet wide. It begins at the Exposition Square and ends at Bolognesi Square. The avenue is built on the arc of a circle and traverses the modern quarter of Lima. Four wide sidewalks run along its whole length, two at the outside and two at the center,

divided by a strip of land adorned with statues, plants, and ornamental benches.

There are 35 public squares in Lima. Some of these are small, set with a few trees or plants and benches; but many are large and artistically planned. Four of these large squares are noticeable. The Plaza Mayor, upon which fronts government house and the cathedral, has also fronting on its south and west sides two fine arcades, the lower parts of which are occupied by handsome shops



SQUAD OF POLICE, LIMA, PERU.

The police force of Lima is an efficient and well-drilled body of men recruited and organized by the army authorities and under the direction of a chief having command of the entire force.

and the upper parts by the social clubs, for which Lima is quite famous. The Plaza Mayor contains a handsome bronze fountain, erected in 1650, which occupies the center of the square, surrounded by palm trees. Inquisition Square, three blocks away, has very pretty flower plats and three handsome fountains. Fronting on this square is the building of the Chamber of Deputies and also that of the Senate. Santa Ana Square, somewhat larger than Inquisition Square, fronts the palace of the Prefecture and the churches of Santa Ana





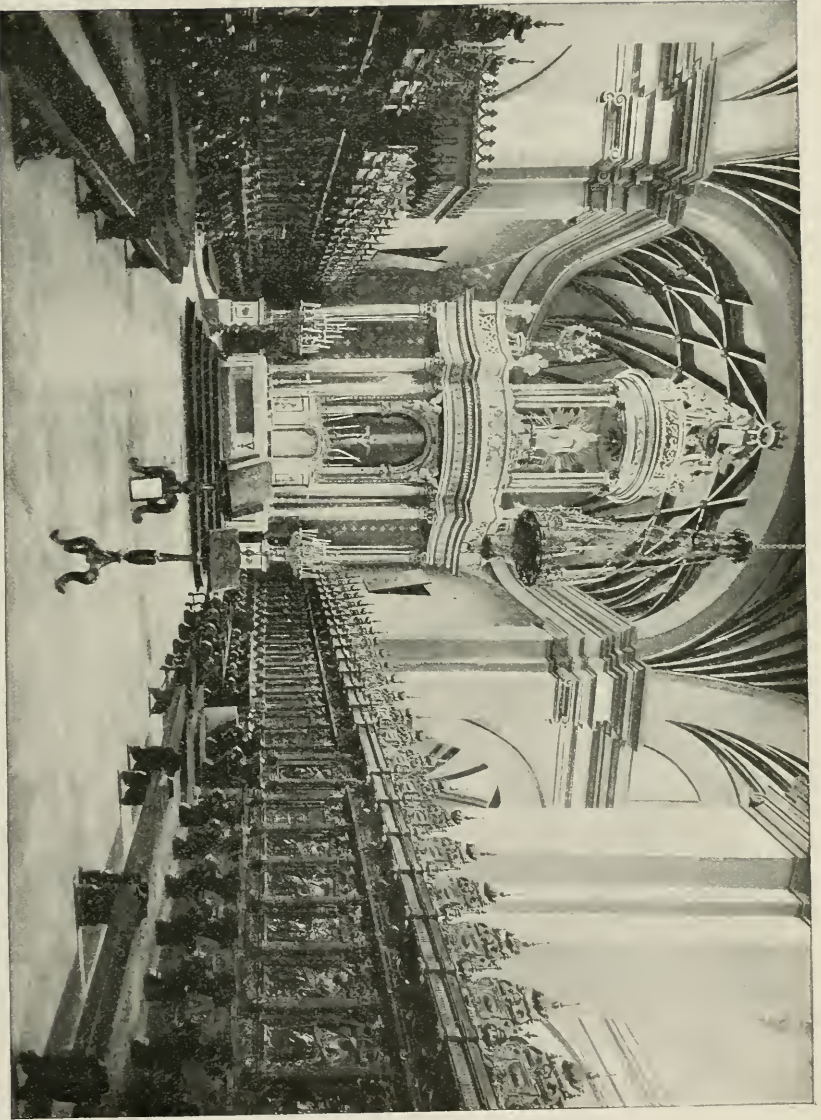
THE CATHEDRAL, LIMA, PERU. Bancroft Library

This beautiful edifice overlooks the principal plaza of the Capital. It contains five aisles, with nine arches or vaults, and along the sides are ten chapels, in one of which repose the remains of Pizarro, the Conqueror.



DEPOSITS AND CONSIGNMENTS BANK, LIMA, PERU.

The Bank of Deposits and Consignments owes its existence to a law providing that all judicial and fiscal deposits should be concentrated in a single institution, and the bank's capital of £100 000 was subscribed by the other Lima banks. It performs the functions of a clearing house.



CHOIR AND ALTAR OF THE CATHEDRAL AT LIMA, PERU.

The main altar occupies the center of the chancel and is decorated with many beautiful and costly ornaments including candleabra and tabernacle. The stalls are handsomely carved and show only the wear caused through their use by generations of worshippers.





SENATE CHAMBER, LIMA, PERU.

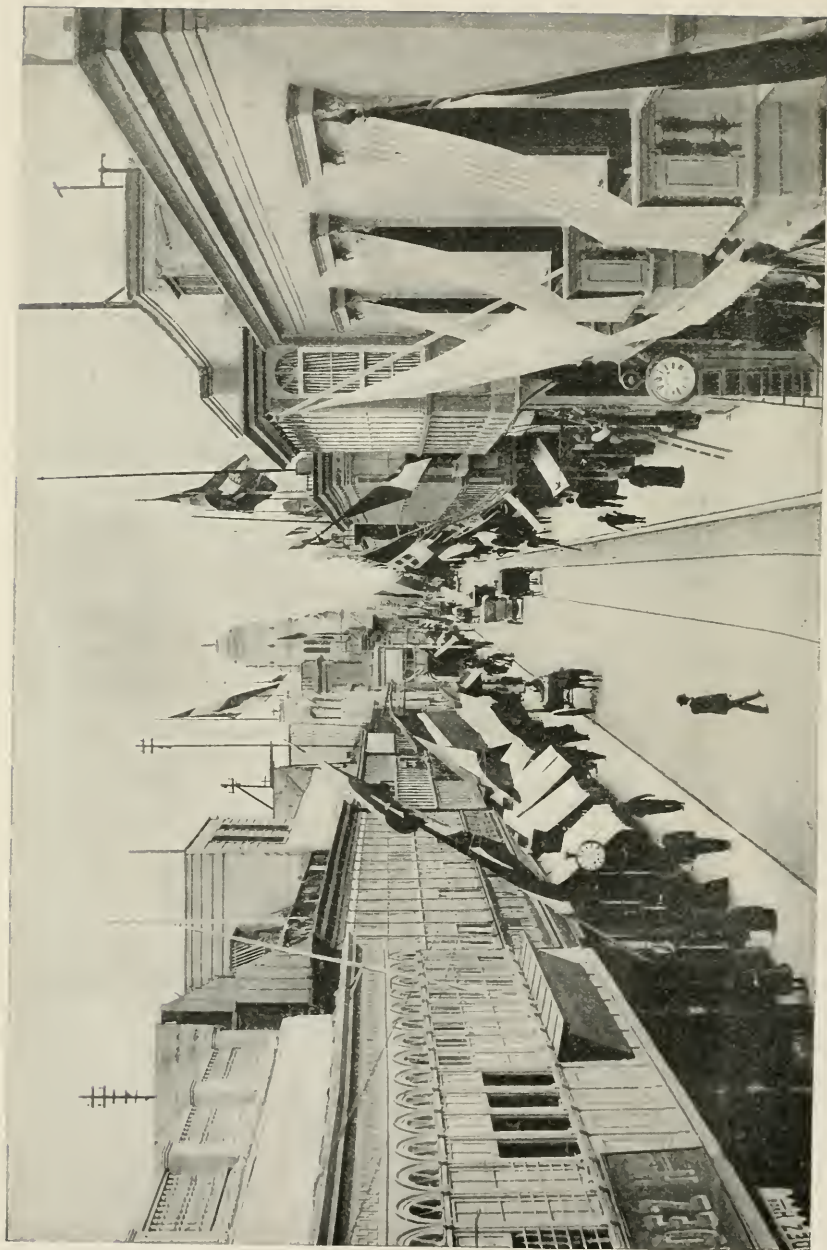
The Upper House of the Peruvian Congress consists of fifty-one Senators elected by direct vote for a period of six years. Congress meets annually on July 28 and sits for ninety days only. Special sessions may be summoned as often as necessary, but are limited to forty-five days. Senators must have an income of at least £100 a year or be members of a scientific profession.

and Las Descalzas. Exposition Square, in the southern part of the city, is the largest of all the squares, and covers an area of about 12 acres.

There are five monuments in Lima justly celebrated all through South America. Of first rank is the COLUMBUS monument in marble. The statue crowning this monument represents the great discoverer raising a native woman from the ground. The BOLIVAR monument of bronze has a marble pedestal, on which appears two bas-reliefs, one the battle of Junin and the other the battle of Ayacucho. The Second of May monument, in commemoration of the defense made by the Peruvian forts against the Spanish squadron in 1866, comprises a very beautiful and ornate column of Carrara marble about 70 feet in height, crowned by a winged statue of Victory in gilded bronze. At the base of the column are bronze reliefs representing the principal incidents of the combat. The BOLOGNESI monument is dedicated to the memory of Col. FRANCISCO BOLOGNESI, who lost his life on June 7, 1880, in the heroic defense of the Arica Morro against the Chilean forces. The monument is one of the most beautiful works of the Spanish sculptor QUEROL. The crowning statue represents BOLOGNESI falling mortally wounded and clutching his country's flag. The monument to SAN MARTIN is a very handsome work in marble, with granite base surmounted by a statue of the great Argentine general represented at the moment of proclaiming the independence of Peru.

In addition to these five, there is also a fine monument to Rear-Admiral MIGUEL GRAU, who lost his life on board the *Huascar*, October 8, 1879, in the naval battle of Angamos against the Chilean squadron.

In most Latin-American countries exist, as survivals from Spanish colonial times, benevolent societies whose field of charitable work is as a rule broader than that of similar associations in other countries. Quite often they perform work elsewhere for the most part undertaken by state or municipal government. In these countries they are often given a legal standing, and receive a government municipal support both in law and in revenue. The Lima Benevolent Society is a most important element in the municipal government of the capital. Its revenues amount to nearly a million dollars a year, out of which it supports the Second of May Hospital, a fine and modern hospital for men which accommodates 1,000 patients; the Santa Ana Hospital for women, founded in 1549 by the first Archbishop of Lima, to which is attached the Maternity Hospital and school for midwifery and the Military Hospital of San Bartolomé. The insane asylum in charge of the society is in reality the national hospital for the insane. It supports two orphan asylums, one for foundlings, housed in a large and handsome building, and the other



STREET IN LIMA, PERU.

Lima provides for its 150,000 inhabitants excellent sanitary arrangements and transportation facilities. It is lighted by electricity and has a telephone service, many beautiful residences, public buildings, and a handsome new theater.



for orphan boys who are given a good education and taught some useful trade. The Institute Sevilla, founded from a legacy by Señor José Sevilla, educates 100 girls and teaches them occupations suited to their capacity. The apprenticeship in this institution is for five years. The society maintains a number of almshouses or asylums for the very poor and the incurably sick. It also conducts a savings bank with a branch mortgage bank.



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, LIMA, PERU.

The Medical School is a branch of the famed University of San Marcos and students who have completed a two-years' course in natural science and the prescribed course in mathematics and physics in the University are eligible for enrollment. The institution has a large and able faculty of instructors. The curriculum embraces a period of six years and confers the title of "physician and surgeon" on those who complete it.

The cemeteries of Lima are administered by the Benevolent Society. The principal one is the Cemetery of Lima, noted for its fine mausoleums.

By far the most interesting institution of Lima is the famous University of San Marcos, the oldest in America and one of the most celebrated centers of Latin culture. La Universidad Mayor de San Marcos, to give its Spanish title, was founded by royal decree of the EMPEROR CHARLES V on May 12, 1551, granting to the priors of the Dominican order the right to establish an Estudio General, after the model of the University of Salamanca. Twenty years later PHILIP

II secularized the university, and its first rector, Dr. GASPAR MENSES, was chosen. The name of the San Marcos was not assumed until December 31, 1574, and it is said that this name was chosen by lot, the seculars being unable otherwise to agree as to which saint's name should be given to the institution. At present the university has six faculties—law, medicine, theology, mathematics, philosophy, letters and political economy.

